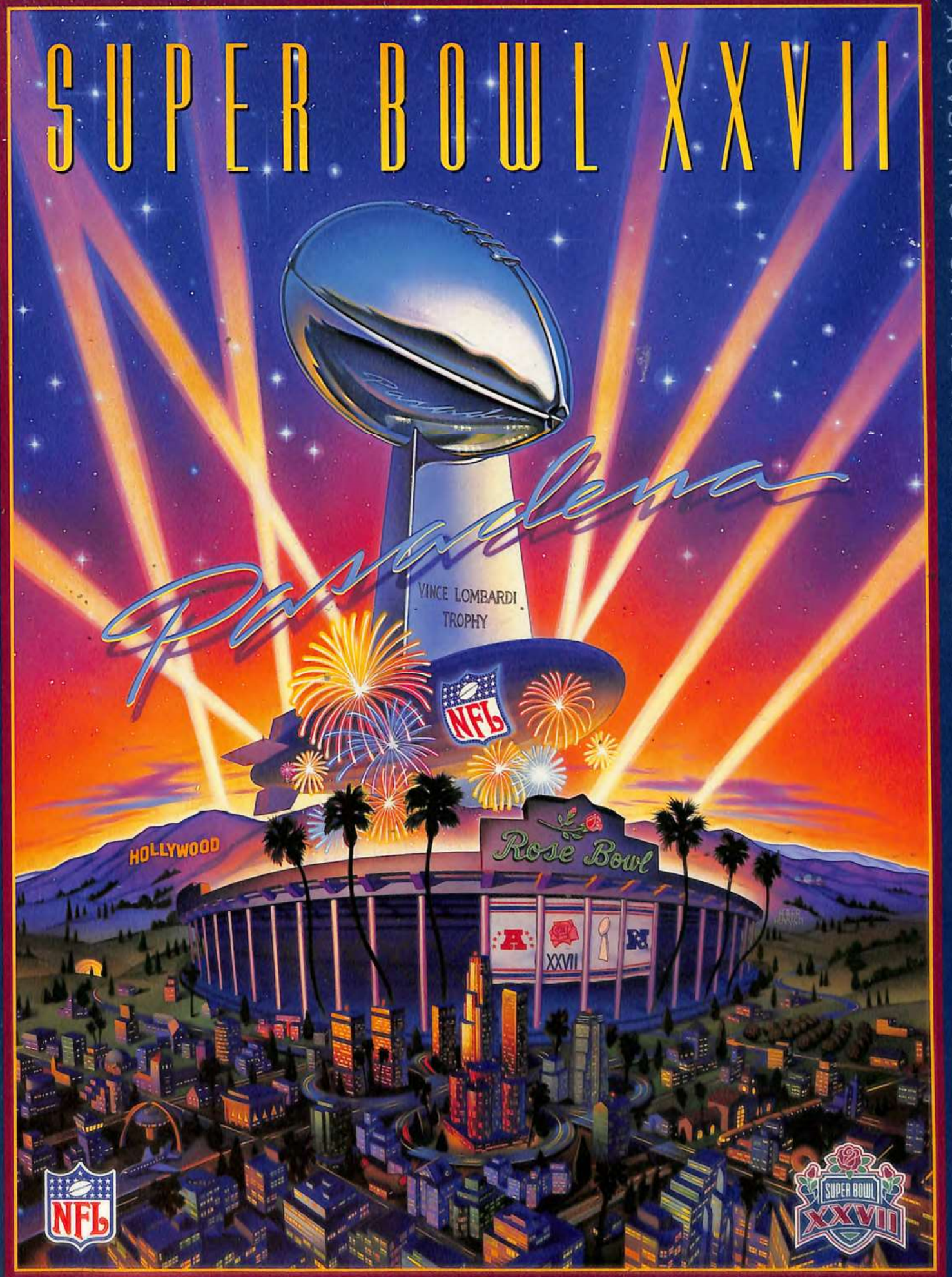
THE OFFICIAL GAME PROGRAM • TEN DOLLARS

SUPER BOWL XXVII



THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SUPER BOWL • ROSE BOWL • PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

AFC VS. NFC FOR THE NFL CHAMPIONSHIP & THE VINCE LOMBARDI TROPHY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 1993 • 3:00 P.M. PST

Recently, an independent research firm compared the new $13,000* *Nissan Altima* against the $26,550** Lexus ES 300 to determine which car's body panels were put together with a higher level of precision.

The results were quite astonishing.

Thanks in part to Nissan's state-of-the-art robotic body assembly system and over 3500 precision welds, the *Altima's* tolerances between body panels proved to be every bit as accurate as its stratospherically priced competition's. In fact, the *Altima* is built with such precision that it had an average gap difference of just .018 inches.***

What does this mean in layman's terms?

It means the doors fit snugly, the trunk shuts soundly and the hood closes perfectly. It also means the automobile offers such structural soundness that

*Nissan Motor Corporation U.S.A. Smart people always read the fine print. And they always wear their seat belts. *Manufacturer's suggested retail price for 1993 Nissan Altima XE excluding taxes, title, license, destination charges and options. **Manufacturer's suggested retail price for 1992 Lexus ES 300 excluding taxes, title, license, destination*

If you were impressed when you saw Lexus do this test, wait until you read this.

squeaks and rattles are virtually nonexistent.

Slide inside the *Nissan Altima's* cabin and you'll see that we let nothing slip through the cracks. The seats have been specially tailored to offer remarkable support. Every control has been thoughtfully placed to assist the driver. All four doors have been triple-sealed to help keep out moisture.

And noise is so minimal that at 55 mph, the *Nissan Altima's* cabin is actually quieter than a BMW 325i's.***

But while the *Altima* delivers total comfort, you can rest assured you won't fall asleep at the wheel. A 150-horsepower engine offers exemplary responsiveness, while its suspension is yet another Nissan engineering marvel. On a slalom course the *Altima* can beat an Acura Legend L Sedan.***

Call us at 1-800-NISSAN-3, ext. 604, and find out more about our amazing new car. You'll discover that an automobile that's put together well needn't put you well into debt.

The New Nissan

Altima

NISSAN

It's time to expect more from a car.™

*charges and options. ***Based on independent tests conducted by USAC. Body panel tolerances based on average gap consistency. Other claims certified by AMCI for 1993 Nissan Altima XE or SE vs. 1992 competitive vehicles. Slalom comparison based on course completion time. Interior quietness based on decibel level at 55 miles per hour.*

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The game wouldn't be Super if it weren't surrounded by a bustle of activity. Get acquainted with the events of the week—from The NFL Experience to Michael Jackson to Garth Brooks.

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Nostalgia, anyone? Disperse the mists of time for a glimpse into the past, featuring a discussion of, and with, the MVPs from the six previous Super Bowls played in Los Angeles and Pasadena.

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Scouting Report

What to look for on the field today: all the matchups, strategies, and relative strengths and weaknesses of the AFC and NFC champions.

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Spotlight

For the literary-minded, here are essays, columns, and extended features that paint a sport and a city in words that are, by turns, funny, informative, poignant, and quirky.

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DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF STAN (THE MAN) JAMES, 1964-1992

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1992 Replay

It all seems clear now, but for 20 weeks the NFL season was a wild and unpredictable ride. Relive the dramatic moments, important games, and spectacular personal accomplishments in this comprehensive review.

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As they say, it's all in the genes. Introducing the ThinkPad™ from IBM. The slickest, sleekest little number that ever crunched one. A mere seven-and-a-half pounds of brains and beauty that begs you to take it anywhere. And once you own one, that's exactly what you'll do.

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Introducing

ThinkPad

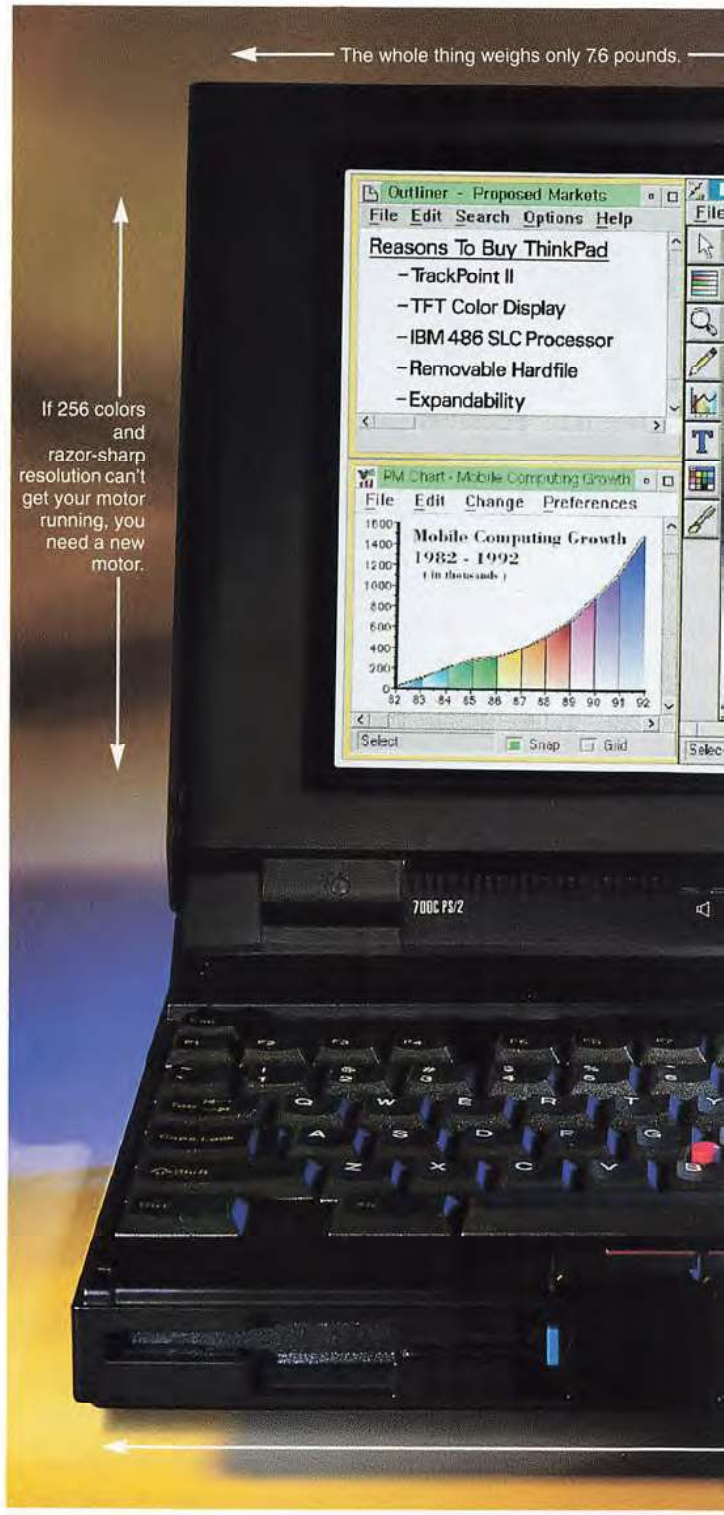
The top-of-the-line ThinkPad 700C sports a screaming 486 SLC™ 25 MHz processor. But it's built for comfort too. There's a surprisingly roomy interior, with a full-size, ergonomically designed keyboard. And a screen that literally bends over backwards.

Strategically placed on the keyboard is a little red spot called the TrackPoint II.™ It does what a mouse would do with a few million more years of evolution. Nothing dangles; it's part of the soul of the machine. You can operate it with one fingertip. And it lets you think on any terrain, even one without any flat surfaces.

The ThinkPad's screen is a thing of almost aching beauty. Its 640 × 480 VGA resolution is sharper than that of many desktop computers. It displays 256 colors. And it's the biggest screen on any notebook. So it's very easy on the eyes.

The ThinkPad comes standard with things some other notebooks don't even offer as options. Like 4MB

*Depending on usage and configuration. **MSRP. Dealer prices may vary. †Warranty information available from the Personal Systems HelpCenter or an IBM authorized dealer. 700T warranty is available in USA and Canada only. ††In Canada, call 1 800 465-7999. IBM is a registered trademark and ThinkPad, HelpWare, HelpCenter, SLC and TrackPoint II are trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation. PRODIGY is a registered trademark of Prodigy Services Company. © 1992 IBM Corp.


The whole thing weighs only 7.6 pounds.
If 256 colors and razor-sharp resolution can't get your motor running, you need a new motor.
Outliner - Proposed Markets
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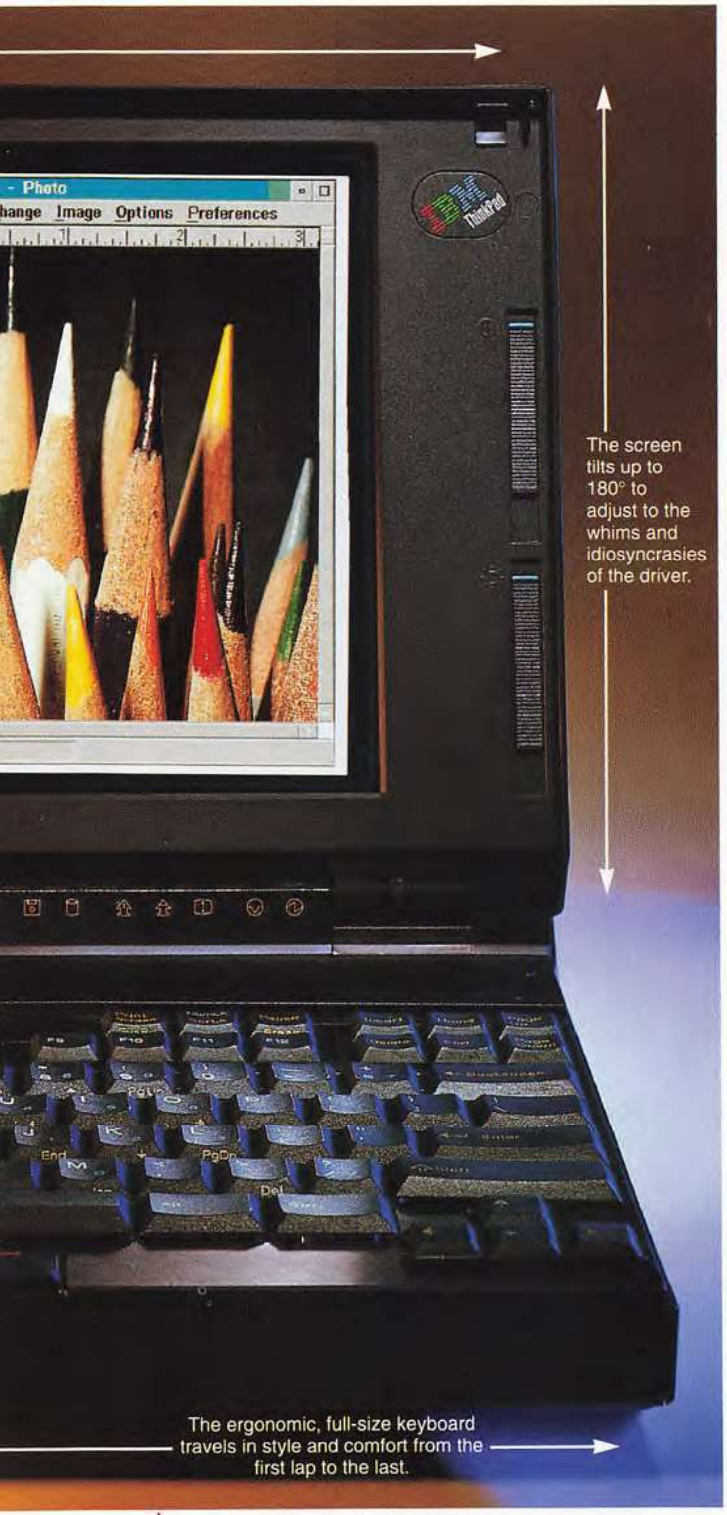
Reasons To Buy ThinkPad
-TrackPoint II
-TFT Color Display
-IBM 486 SLC Processor
-Removable Hardfile
-Expandability
PM Chart - Mobile Computing Growth
File Edit Change Preferences
Mobile Computing Growth
1982 - 1992
700C PS/2

Its mother was
Its father wa


- Photo
hange Image Options Preferences
The screen tilts up to 180° to adjust to the whims and idiosyncrasies of the driver.
The ergonomic, full-size keyboard travels in style and comfort from the first lap to the last.

of memory upgradable to 16MB. 120MB of hard disk space. Pre-installed DOS 5.0 and PRODIGY.® You can soup it up with a turbo-charged 486SLC2 50/25 MHz processor—just one of the upgrade products IBM offers. And the hard disk is removable, so it's easy to upgrade and share your ThinkPad, not to mention the great security and virtually unlimited storage.

The world's smallest stick shift.

ThinkPad blows the doors off its competition in an even more surprising arena. Price. Any ThinkPad in the line will give you more for your money—and for your psyche—than any other notebook.

If you have questions along the way, ThinkPad Models 700C and 700 are supported by HelpWare,™ an invaluable service package that includes a three-year international warranty.†

ThinkPad	Model 700C	Model 700
Processor	486 SLC/25 MHz	486 SLC/25 MHz
Display	10.4" Active Matrix 256-Color Screen	9.5" Monochrome Display 64 Grayscale Screen
Battery Life*	2–4 Hours	3.8–7.5 Hours
Weight	7.6 Lbs. with Battery	6.5 Lbs. with Battery
Warranty	3 Years (International)	3 Years (International)
Price**	$4,350	$2,750

For more information or an IBM authorized dealer near you, call our Personal Systems HelpCenter™ 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 1 800 772-2227.††

Then just park one in your lap and see what happens.

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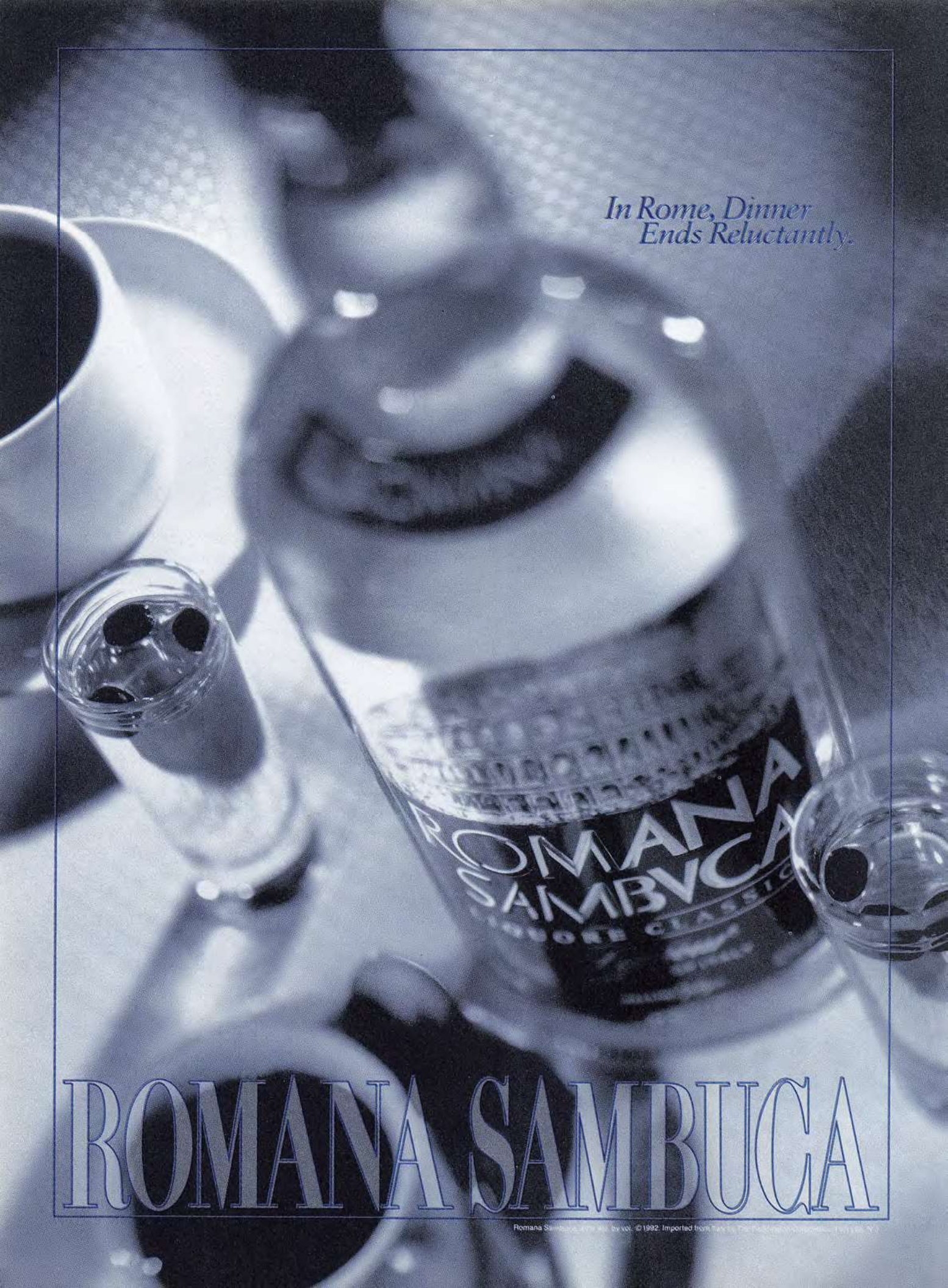
a mainframe. s a Maserati.



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SUPER BOWL NOW

Hot Info

Kickoff Time: 3 P.M. (PST)

Teams: AFC Champion vs. NFC Champion for the National Football League Championship and the Vince Lombardi Trophy. The NFC Champion will be the home team and will have the choice of wearing white or colored jerseys.

Players' Shares: Each member of the winning team receives $36,000; each member of the losing team receives $18,000—a total of more than $2.6 million for the personnel of the competing clubs.

Overtime: If the score of Super Bowl XXVII is tied at the end of the regulation 60 minutes, the game will continue into sudden-death overtime. The first team to score—by touchdown, field goal, or safety—will win. The Super Bowl will continue by 15-minute periods, with two-minute intermissions, until there is a winner.

Television Coverage: NBC will begin its pregame show at 12:30 P.M. (PST). The game telecast begins at 3 P.M.

Radio Coverage: CBS Radio's English and Spanish-language broadcasts will begin at 2:45 P.M. (PST).

Medical

First-aid teams are stationed throughout the main concourse and near the 20-yard line tunnels. Team members are wearing blue shirts and dark blue pants. The first-aid trailer is located between gates A and B. Should you, or anyone near you, need medical assistance, please contact security, an usher, or concession personnel. If possible, please provide location of the patron and the nature of the problem.

Ropin' the Anthem

Garth Brooks, one of the hottest stars in American music (and a former high school quarterback), will sing the National Anthem at Super Bowl XXVII. Brooks's rise to the top of the music charts, country and otherwise, has been nothing short of phenomenal, and has included five multimillion selling albums and dozens of Grammy, Country Music Association, Academy of Country Music, People's Choice, and American Music Awards for his work as a songwriter, artist, and entertainer. Brooks's "Ropin' the Wind" album made *Billboard* history by becoming the first country album to enter the top 200 chart at number one. He did it again with his latest album, "The Chase."

Garth Brooks, the biggest name in country music, sings the National Anthem.

Brooks, in cooperation with the National Football League, performed two benefit concerts at the Great Western Forum Friday night to benefit local inner-city youth community projects. Having been in Los Angeles during the riots last spring, Brooks was affected by the tensions on all sides. Along with Stephanie Davis, Brooks wrote his hit single "We Shall Be Free" to reflect his feelings about the situation.

Brooks also headlined the "Super Bowl Saturday Night" show, broadcast last night on Turner Network Television (TNT).

The Sounds of Music

Today's pregame show—"Movies * Music * Hollywood!"–will salute the motion picture capital of the world with tributes to musical comedies, classic musicals, action films, and westerns.

Film critic Gene Shalit of NBC will host the show, joined by more than 700 dancers from southern California who were selected in local auditions. The show features impersonations of The Blues Brothers, Ray Charles, Cab Calloway, Judy Garland, Gene Kelly, and Shirley Temple.

The musical comedy segment saluting *The Blues Brothers* will include the songs "I Can't Turn You Loose/Time Is Tight," "Gimme Some Lovin'," and "Shake a Tail Feather."

The classic musical segment features hit songs from *Bright Eyes*, *Singin' in the Rain*, and *The Wizard of Oz*.

Stunt men and special-effects artists will perform to some of the best-known songs from James Bond movies—"The James Bond Theme," "Goldfinger," and "Live and Let Die"–in a tribute to action films.

The renowned Radio City Music Hall Rockettes will star in a salute to westerns. Among the songs to be performed are "Rodeo: Hoedown" and "The Theme from Oklahoma Crude."

The pregame show is produced and directed by Bob Best, who has produced eight previous Super Bowl shows. He will be assisted by associate producer Ed Jones and choreographer Lesslee Fitzmorris of American All-Stars.

Notes for the Hearing Impaired

Hearing impaired Super Bowl viewers can enjoy the National Anthem this year thanks to actress Marlee Matlin who will sign the Anthem, which will be sung by Garth Brooks. Matlin won an Academy Award for best actress in 1987 for her role in the film, *Children of a Lesser God*.

Actress Marlee Matlin

Assistance for hearing impaired fans at the stadium will be provided by Telex Communications, Inc. Telex and Telex Technical Service has installed a SoundMate personal listening system, including transmitter, at the Rose Bowl and has made available approximately 1,500 "pocket" receivers for in-stadium use on Super Sunday. The receivers will be distributed to anyone with a hearing impairment at booths manned by Telex personnel at Gates B, D, E, and G. Telex has a long-standing relationship with the NFL; it supplies both the coaches' sideline communications equipment (headsets and intercoms) as well as the wireless microphone systems that allow the referee to announce penalties from the field.

HALFTIME

The halftime extravaganza at the Super Bowl always is a spectacular event, but today's Lay's Super Bowl Halftime Show promises to surpass anything that has preceded it. This year, the 100-yard stage will be turned over to Radio City Music Hall Productions and the King of Pop, music superstar Michael Jackson.

The show's theme is "Heal the World," an anthem adopted by Jackson, who will be joined on the field by thousands of young people—including a children's chorus of hundreds—as he sends a musical message of peace, racial harmony, and hope.

The youngsters, selected from the Los Angeles area, represent a cultural cross-section of the community. They will file onto the field from entry tunnels and stands until they have filled the field and simulated a concert setting.

Jackson will appear at center stage on the 50-yard line, joined by a singing and dancing ensemble. Some surprises, including elements of illusion and special effects, will highlight the show.

Both end zones will come into play during the production, and the entire Rose Bowl crowd will participate in an elaborate card stunt reflecting the artwork produced by Los Angeles children, who participated in a special contest for this event.

Jackson's "Heal the World" message, for which he has named his international charity foundation, will be

Michael Jackson, the King of Pop, brings his supercharged stage presence and a "Heal the World" theme to the Super Bowl XXVII halftime spectacular.

the feature of a dramatic finale. The entire presentation has been choreographed to unfold within 10 action-packed minutes.

In addition to the more than 100,000 fans attending the game, the halftime show will be broadcast live to more than 75 nations, with a worldwide audience that is expected to exceed 1 billion. It will mark Jackson's first live performance in the United States since 1989.

The show was conceived and produced by Radio City Music Hall Productions, Inc., under the direction of executive producers Arlen Kantarian and Scott Sanders, along with Emmy award winner Don Mischer. It is the latest of several joint projects between the National Football League and the world-renowned entertainment and special events company. Radio City produced the award-winning Super Bowl XXII halftime show—featuring the Rockettes, Chubby Checker, and 88 grand pianos—and the first "Super Bowl Saturday Night" show, a prime-time entertainment special that aired on Turner Network Television. The company also has produced extravaganzas for the fiftieth anniversary of Mount Rushmore, the Eiffel Tower centennial in Paris, the 1991 U.S. Olympic Festival in Los Angeles, the 100th anniversary of the *Wall Street Journal*, and many other large-scale special events.

Proceeds from Jackson's performance, including charitable donations from the National Football League and Lay's Potato Chips, the show's sponsor, will go to his Heal the World foundation, which focuses on worldwide children's issues.

HALFTIME CREDITS
Produced by:
Radio City Music Hall Productions
President: **James A. McManus**

Executive Producers:
Arlen Kantarian
Scott Sanders
Producer and Director:
Don Mischer
Co-Producers: **Michael Fiur, David Goldberg**
Creative Development: **Jeffrey Ernstoff, Joe Layton**
Creative Consultant: **Buz Kohan**
Production Designer: **Robert Keene**
Choreographer: **Vincent Paterson**
Cast Choreographer: **Dee Dee Wood**
Lighting Designer: **Bob Dickinson**
Associate Producer: **Tom Park**
Music Consultant: **Brad Buxer**
Production Manager: **Mary Sue Foard**
Production Coordinators: **Mindy Dow, Kathy Erickson, Jeff Knepper, Mario Romero**
Drill Team Director: **Kay Crawford**
Field Director: **Art Bartner**
Technical Director: **Clare Graham**
Card Stunt Director: **Mark Flaisher**
Assistant Choreographers: **Judy Chabola, Randy Doney, Tommy Peel**
Production Consultant: **J. Deet Jonker**
Production Finance: **Richard S. Traum**
Purchasing/Budget Administration: **Charles Coleman, Gayle Henderson, Gus Spanos**
Business Affairs: **David S. Singer, Paula B. Fenton, Kevin O'Connor**
Publicity: **Rose Polidoro-Taylor, Jay Winuk, Kevin Brockman**

Helping to Heal the World

"Heal the World" is more than just the theme of Michael Jackson's halftime performance at Super Bowl XXVII. It is an international foundation created by Jackson to address issues that threaten today's youth.

Launched on September 30, 1992, the foundation has targeted such concerns as the environment, homelessness, racism, drug and alcohol abuse, famine, and cruelty to children. The foundation is unique in that its board of directors solicits input from children in identifying problems and solutions. Heal the World then distributes funds to programs addressing those specific areas.

In its first few months of operation, HTW has organized a medical relief mission to Bucharest, Romania, to provide supplies and pediatric care to abandoned orphans; donated playground equipment to 450 children at a Bucharest orphanage; and underwritten an airlift of medical supplies, blankets, and clothing to war-torn Sarajevo, Yugoslavia. A relief mission to Somalia is planned for the spring of 1993.

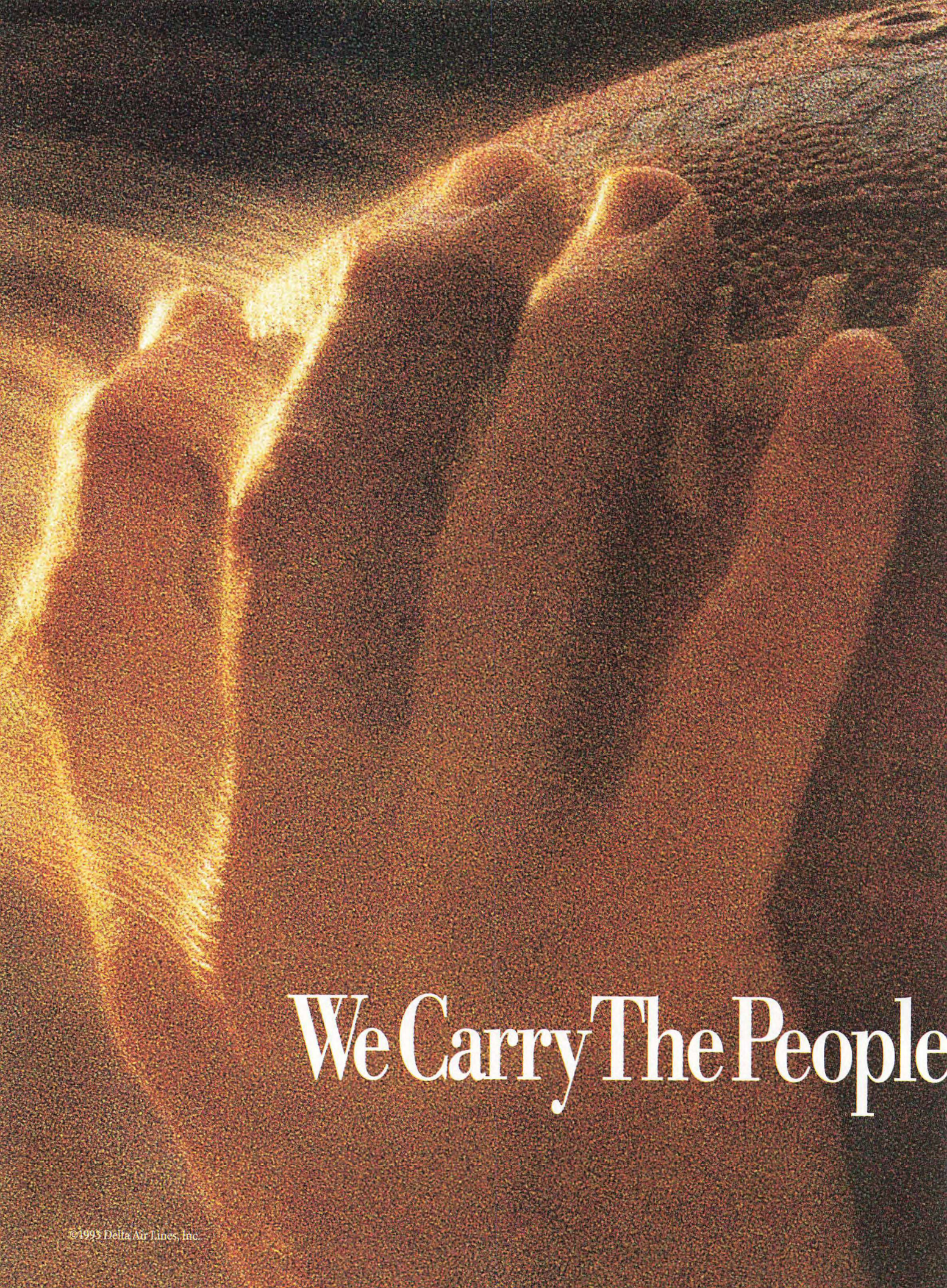
Heal the World is funded by Jackson and by donations from institutions, corporations, and private individuals. The NFL has made a large donation to the foundation in recognition of Jackson's Super Bowl XXVII halftime involvement.

Contributions to Heal the World can be pledged by telephone (800-HEAL-123).

The King of Pop

If Michael Jackson were a football player, he'd be an all-pro. In his field, the music industry, he continues to leave his mark. Among his achievements:

* He has won Grammy Awards, the industry's highest honor, a record-setting 13 times.
* He has had more number-one hits (12) during the last decade than any other recording artist.
* His "Thriller" and "Bad" albums rank 1-2 as the top-selling albums in history.
* His "Dangerous" album sold 15 million copies worldwide in the first 10 months after it was released.
* "We Are the World," a song written by Jackson and Lionel Richie in 1985, remains the industry's top-selling single.
* He received the 1992 Entertainer of the Year award at the NAACP's twenty-fifth annual Image Awards.



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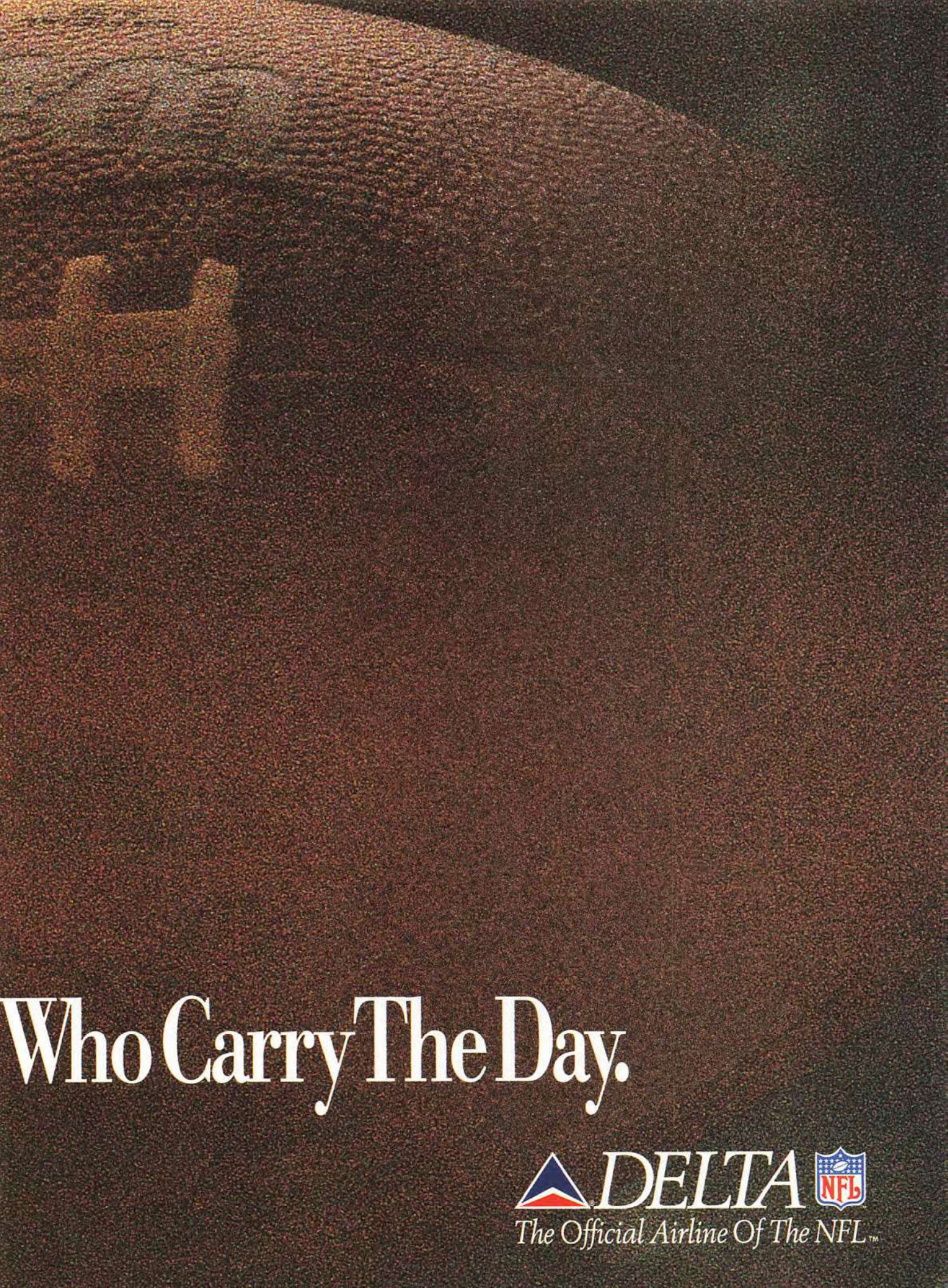
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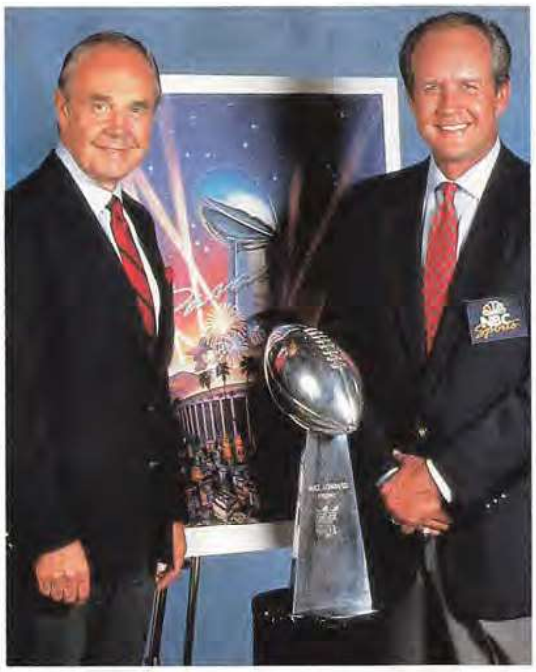
The Television Team

NBC Sports culminates its twenty-eighth consecutive year of pro football coverage with its Super Bowl XXVII telecast. Super Sunday programing begins at 12:30 P.M. (PST) with a special Super Bowl edition of the "NFL Live" pregame show, broadcast live from at the Rose Bowl. Bob Costas, three-time winner of the Emmy Award as outstanding sports personality/host, will anchor the program. He will be joined by analysts O.J. Simpson (who later will be the game's ceremonial coin-tosser), Todd Christensen, and Bill Parcells, and reporters Will McDonough, Gayle Gardner, and Jim Lampley. At 3 P.M., NBC Sports' number-one announcing team of Emmy Award-winning play-by-play announcer Dick Enberg and veteran pro football analyst Bob Trumpy will man the booth and describe the game action. This is Enberg's fifth Super Bowl telecast for NBC in 16 seasons as the network's primary play-by-play voice. In addition to winning three Emmy Awards as outstanding sports personality/play-by-play, he has won Emmys for production and writing. Trumpy, a former NFL tight end who played 10 seasons with the Cincinnati Bengals, is calling his first Super Bowl as a television analyst. He has worked NFL regular-season telecasts for 15 years. Producer John Faratzis also will be working his first Super Bowl for NBC. He has been the coordinating producer of NFL coverage on NBC since 1989, and has won three Emmys in his career, including two for his work as producer of the NFL on CBS. John Gonzalez, who is directing the game telecast, has been involved with every NBC Super Bowl since 1981. He recently directed the gymnastics segments on NBC's Barcelona Olympic coverage.



***NBC's Dick Enberg and Bob Trumpy* (top, left and right); *CBS Radio's Hank Stram and Jack Buck* (opposite, left and right).**

Bilingual Broadcast

CBS Radio Sports brings a wealth of experience to its twentieth Super Bowl broadcast. Super Bowl XXVII radio coverage begins at 2:45 P.M. (PST) with Greg Gumbel and John Madden on the pregame show. Then, at 3 P.M., the mikes will be turned over to play-by-play man Jack Buck and analyst (and winning Super Bowl IV head coach) Hank Stram, who will bring the game to nearly 14 million listeners, as they have for all but two of the last 13 seasons. This year's Super Bowl broadcast will be carried by stations in 350 U.S. markets, as well as more than 400 Armed Forces Radio Network outlets worldwide.

Spanish-speaking audiences in the U.S. and throughout Latin America will be able to enjoy live coverage of the Super Bowl for the third consecutive year, through affiliates of the CBS Hispanic Radio Network. Five postseason games and the special feature, "The Road to the Super Bowl," were broadcast to an estimated 25 million listeners. In the booth for CBS Hispanic are longtime voices of the Miami Dolphins and Dallas Cowboys, Rene Giraldo and Armando Quintero, along with Minnesota Vikings kicker Fuad Reveiz and Univision sportscaster Jessi Losada.

Los Angeles CBS Radio Outlets

KNX Los Angeles 1070 AM (English)
KTNQ Los Angeles 1020 AM (Spanish)
KDIF Riverside 1440 AM (Spanish)

O.J. FLIPS

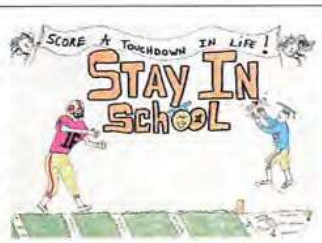
Hall of Fame running back and NBC sportscaster O.J. Simpson, the first NFL player to rush for 2,000 yards in a season, will perform the official coin toss before today's game. It will mark the twelfth successive year in which an NFL legend has made the toss.

The Super Bowl Channel

Fans who were interested in updates on Super Bowl activities this week needed to look no further than their television sets. Through a cooperative arrangement with the National Football League, L.A. CityView Cable Channel 35 provided continuous Super Bowl programing, beginning on Thursday, January 28. The "Super Bowl Channel" broadcast a number of specially produced programs, such as a retrospective of Super Bowls played in Los Angeles and a feature on NFL charity involvement in the L.A. area. Also included were the week's schedule of events, Rose Bowl tour information, behind-the-scenes looks at Super Bowl XXVII, player interviews, press conferences, and details of the game day traffic plan.

CLASSROOM QUARTERBACKS

New to the NFL's roster of educational programs in 1992 was GTE's Project P.A.S.S. (Promoting Achievement and Student Skills), a high-tech math program for seventh graders. NFL F.A.C.T., a fourth-grade reading enhancement program utilizing NFL trading cards, now is entering its third successful year. An annual highlight of the F.A.C.T. program is a national poster contest; the winning entry this year (*right*) was by 8-year-old Peter Amaro, of the Disney Magnet School in Chicago.



If you really want to relax, maybe it's your jeans that should loosen up.

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NFLX

Even before the two Super Bowl teams arrived in Pasadena, footballs were filling the air in that city. With the opening of "The NFL Experience" on the Rose Bowl grounds on Thursday, January 28, fans had the opportunity to field booming punts, attempt extra points, and test their passing accuracy.

Those interactive attractions are among more than 30 exhibits at the NFL theme park that sprawls across 700,000 square feet of the Arroyo Seco area adjacent to the Rose Bowl. Player appearances, rare football memorabilia, and opportunities for fans to test football skills are some of the other highlights of the event.

Miami's Dan Marino coaches a future NFL superstar.

Produced by NFL Properties, the NFL's marketing, licensing, and publishing arm, The NFL Experience came to Pasadena courtesy of American Express, in association with Coca-Cola, Foot Locker, Lay's Brand Potato Chips, Miller Brewing Company, Starter, and the Upper Deck Company. The NFL Experience made its debut a year ago in Minneapolis prior to Super Bowl XXVI. Since then, it has traveled to Berlin, Montreal, Detroit, Kansas City, San Francisco, and East Rutherford, New Jersey. A major grant from the proceeds of the NFL Experience at Super Bowl XXVII will be made from NFL Properties to *Los Angeles Times* Charities.

The major attractions at the giant NFL Experience exhibition include:

NFL Quarterback Challenge/Fans test their passing accuracy by throwing regulation game balls at a sensor-driven target in an exhibit modeled after the televised competition of the same name won by Miami quarterback Dan Marino.

NFL's Fastest Man/Six fans at a time run a 40-yard dash against flashing lights that simulate the speed of Raiders wide receiver Alexander Wright, winner of the NFL's Fastest Man competition.

Extra-Point Kick/A chance to kick a regulation football through NFL goal-post uprights. Competitors must pass a preliminary qualification kick to enter.

Fair Catch/An automated "Jugs" machine, like those used at NFL training camps, provides fans with the experience of fielding a simulated punt.

Wilson Football Factory/Skilled Wilson employees demonstrate how an official NFL football is sized, stitched, and assembled.

NFL Films Theater/A feature presentation in a multiscreen format captures the intense emotion, crunching action, and dazzling plays from a typical NFL Sunday. Screenings are every 20 minutes.

Century of Pro Football/Fans can reflect on the game's greatest players and its most memorable moments through photographs, memorabilia, and rare NFL artifacts.

Foot Locker NFL Team Shop/A 30,000-square foot store, presented by America's largest athletic footwear and apparel retailer, offers a mind-boggling variety of NFL merchandise from all 28 teams and Super Bowl XXVII.

NFL Screen Test/An opportunity for amateurs to display their skills at calling play-by-play from a simulated press box at an NFL game.

NFL Locker Room/A rare visit inside the players' private domain, featuring a fully equipped training and conditioning room.

NFL Experience Main Stage/The hub of the entertainment activity, featuring player appearances, and two live telecasts.

Super Bowl Card Show IV/A 70,000-square foot extravaganza with exhibits from major trading-card companies and free player autograph sessions.

Measure Up to the Pros/Fans see how their physical dimensions compare to the pros, with life-size castings of players' hands, feet, biceps, and legs.

Among the other NFL Experience attractions are: "Make-Your-Own Trading Card," "Look Like a Pro" (featuring life-size fiberglass castings of NFL players), a Logo-7 Super Bowl cap embroidery machine, a special U.S. Postal Service station offering a Super Bowl commemorative cancellation stamp, "NFL Kids Zone" playground, the "Ultimate Kids' Bedroom," and a display of the NFL's Youth Education Programs.

TICKETS FOR THE NFL EXPERIENCE can be purchased at the gate or in advance through California Ticketmaster (subject to Ticketmaster service charge). Ticket prices are: Adults, 13 years and older, $7.50 in advance ($10 at the door); children $5.

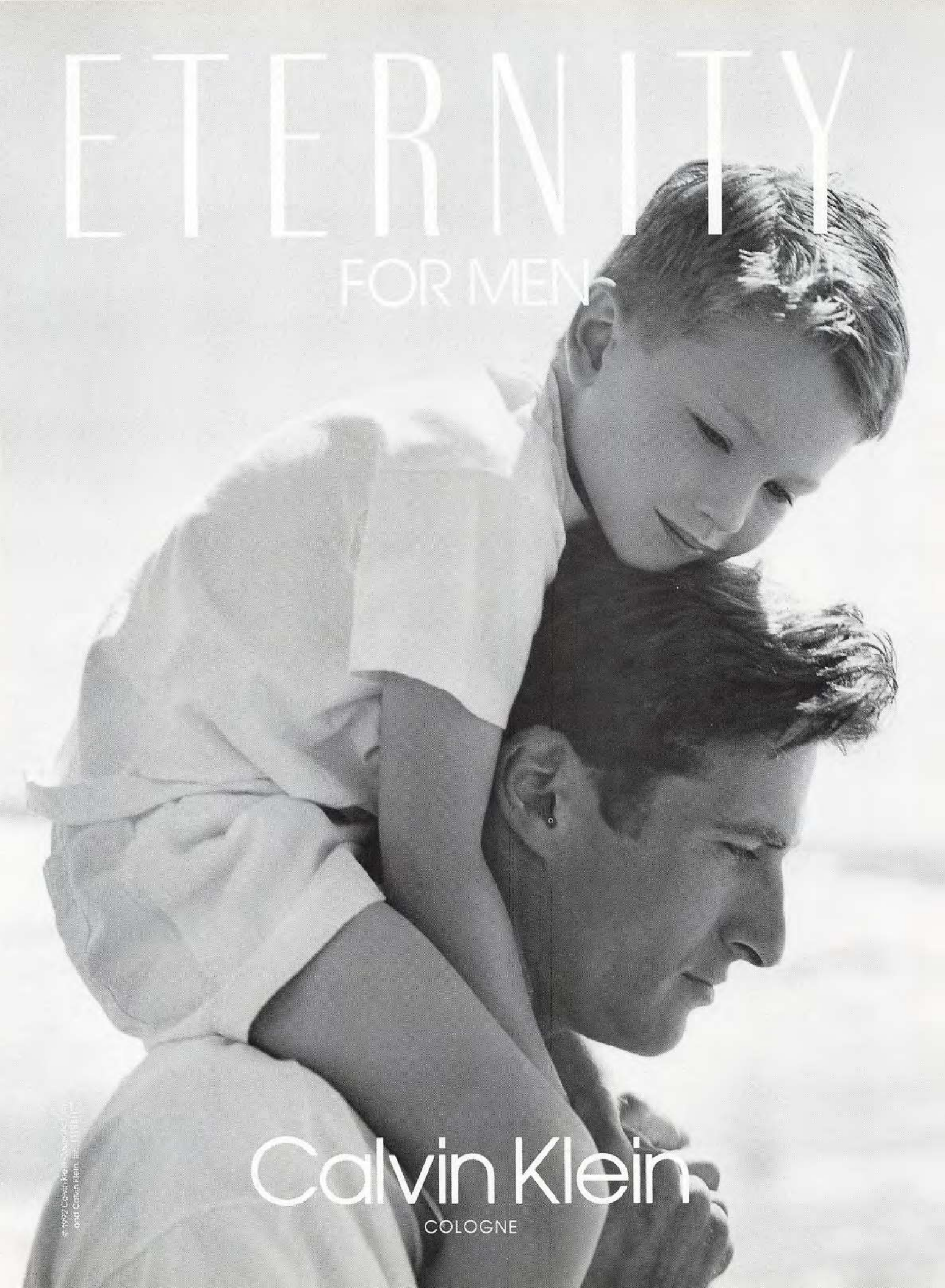
THE EVENT'S HOURS OF OPERATION are: Thursday (January 28) 10 A.M.-9 P.M.; Friday (January 29) 10 A.M.-9 P.M.; Saturday (January 30) 10 A.M.-3 P.M., 4 P.M.-9 P.M.:Sunday (January 31) 10 A.M.-3 P.M. and 7 P.M.-9 P.M. A Super Bowl game ticket is required for entry to Rose Bowl grounds on Sunday.

Super Bowl Saturday Night

For those who couldn't wait for Super Bowl Sunday to arrive, there was a chance to jump the gun. "Super Bowl Saturday Night: Live From the NFL Experience" aired on Turner Network Television, from 7-8:30 P.M. (PST), on January 30.

It was the second year for the awards and entertainment special, during which the Miller Lite NFL Player of the Year, Pro Set NFL Rookie of the Year, and Starter NFL Coach of the Year were honored. The Edge/NFL Man of the Year and the NFL Lifetime Achievement Awards also were presented. Staged near the Rose Bowl on the grounds of the NFL Experience, the league's traveling theme park, the event was open to the public with a regular admission ticket.

An appearance by country music superstar Garth Brooks also was one of the highlights of the show.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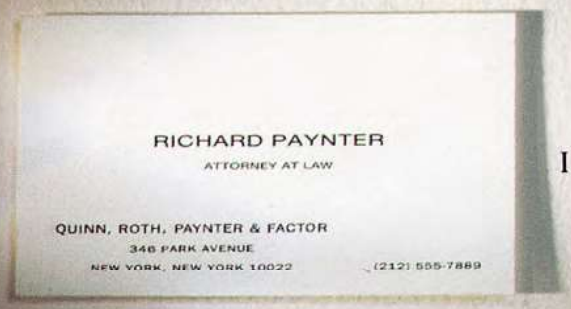

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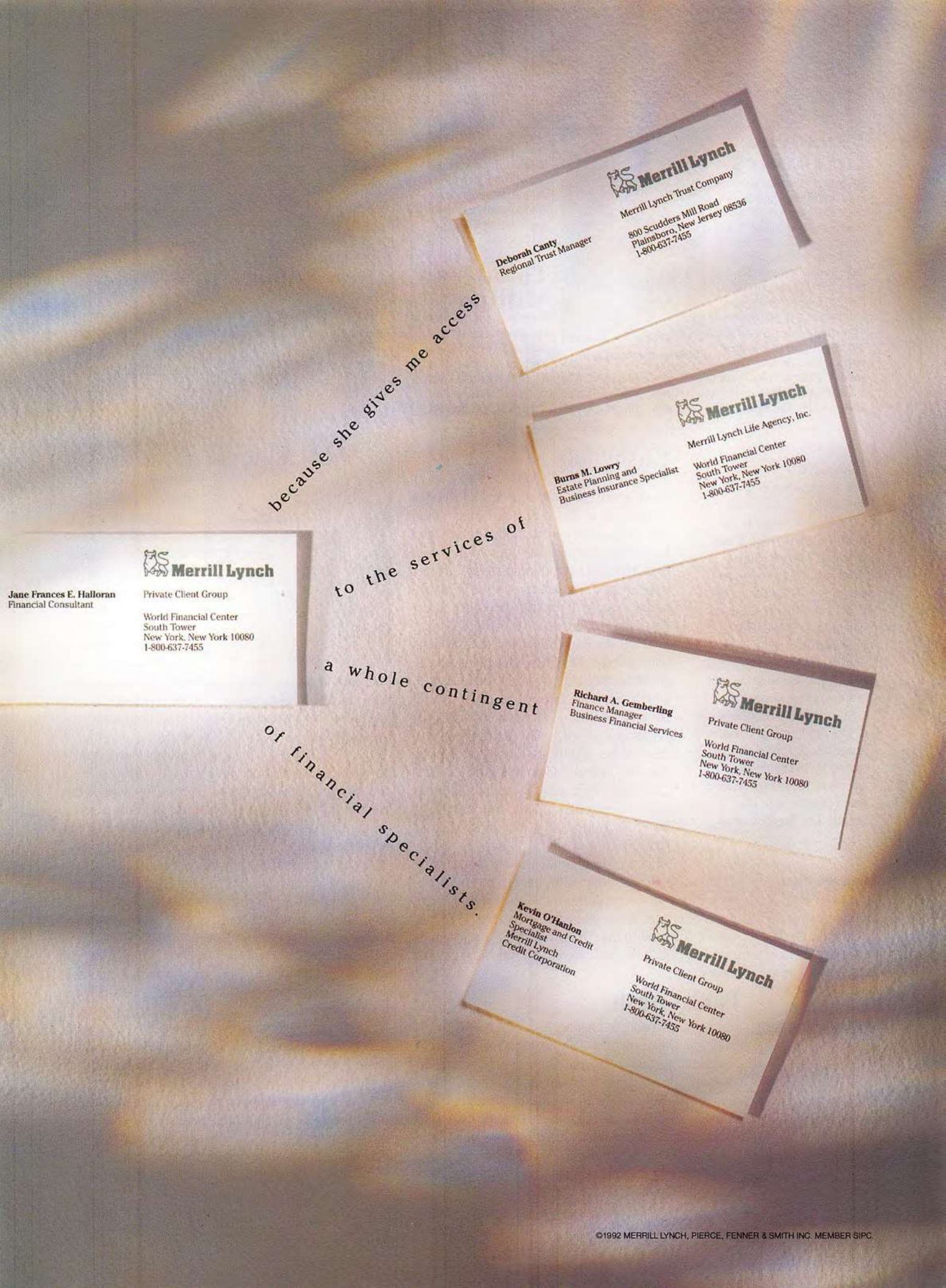

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Pasadena Celebrates

The eagerly anticipated arrival of Super Bowl XXVII gave birth to a new celebration in the host city, known for its annual Tournament of Roses. The "Pasadena Celebrates" festival spanned the week prior to the game and included an arts and crafts festival, a comedy show, and the Old Pasadena Superfest. For the Superfest, the city's original business district became the site of a street fair, featuring live entertainment, special exhibits, merchant booths, and cuisine from many local restaurants.

Pasadena's historic city hall

Downtown Los Angeles paid tribute to the Super Bowl on Friday, January 29, with a celebration called "Touchdown Downtown." The business district bounded by Figueroa, Temple, Grand, and Eighth Streets was transformed into an outdoor entertainment center that featured five performance stages.

Thanks a Million

The members of the media owe a tip of the cap to the Super Bowl XXVII Host Committee. From the funds generated by events packaged by the Host Committee, a donation of $1 million was applied toward construction of the new $11.5 million Rose Bowl press box.

Tee Time

The Buick Super Bowl Charity Golf Classic has raised more than $600,000 for worthy causes since it was first held prior to Super Bowl XIX. This year's classic, played Thursday at the Brookside Country Club adjacent to the Rose Bowl, featured more than 200 golfers, including Pro Football Hall of Famers, current players, show business celebrities, and members of the Pro Football Writers Association. Proceeds generated by the tournament will go to NFL-sponsored youth programs in the greater Los Angeles area.

Cushy Job

Once again, GTE, the telecommunications consultant to the NFL and Super Bowl XXVII, has been hard at work during Super Bowl week to make life softer for the more than 103,000 fans attending today's game. For the eighth consecutive year, GTE is supplying seat cushions for the entire Super Bowl stadium crowd.

For Super Bowl XXVII, the seat cushions have a fold-over pouch that holds special gift items, including a pocket AM radio with which fans can listen to the CBS Radio Sports broadcast of the game (1070 AM for English broadcast, 1020 AM for Spanish). Also in the pouch are a copy of *The Pro Line*/The Official Magazine of the Pro Line Collection, NFL trading cards, and stunt cards to be used to participate in today's Lay's Halftime Show featuring Michael Jackson.

The monumental task of placing the cushions, requiring nearly 7,000 man-hours, was performed by 150 volunteers from the Foothill Area Community Services group, based in Pasadena. GTE will make a donation to the group, which directs programs serving Pasadena's disabled, elderly, and low-income residents.

Safe Rides Home

Designated drivers booths are strategically located outside the stadium's entrance gates. Your group's designated drivers may visit the booths to receive the benefits of the program.

Talkin' Trash

The National Football League, in conjuction with the California Department of Conservation and the City of Pasadena, has helped in the fight to save natural resources by buying and maintaining 100 bins for recycling trash. The bright blue bins, located inside and outside the Rose Bowl, are labeled by specific trash type (cans, glass, paper, trash, and plastic) to aid in recycling. Also contributing to the effort are the many Super Bowl caterers and suppliers who have complied by using recyclable materials.

The Global Gridiron

Super Bowl XXVI was viewed in six of the world's seven continents by more than 750 million people in more than 60 foreign countries. The global audience for today's game is expected to exceed those remarkable numbers. Media coverage, including print and electronic, also is expected to rise from the 261 credentials issued to foreign journalists last year.

But there's more to the NFL internationally than the Super Bowl.

NFL regular-season games and highlights are increasingly part of international television fare. Since 1990, British NFL fans have received live coverage of the conclusions of two NFL games each Sunday night on Channel 4 in London, in addition to weekly highlight shows.

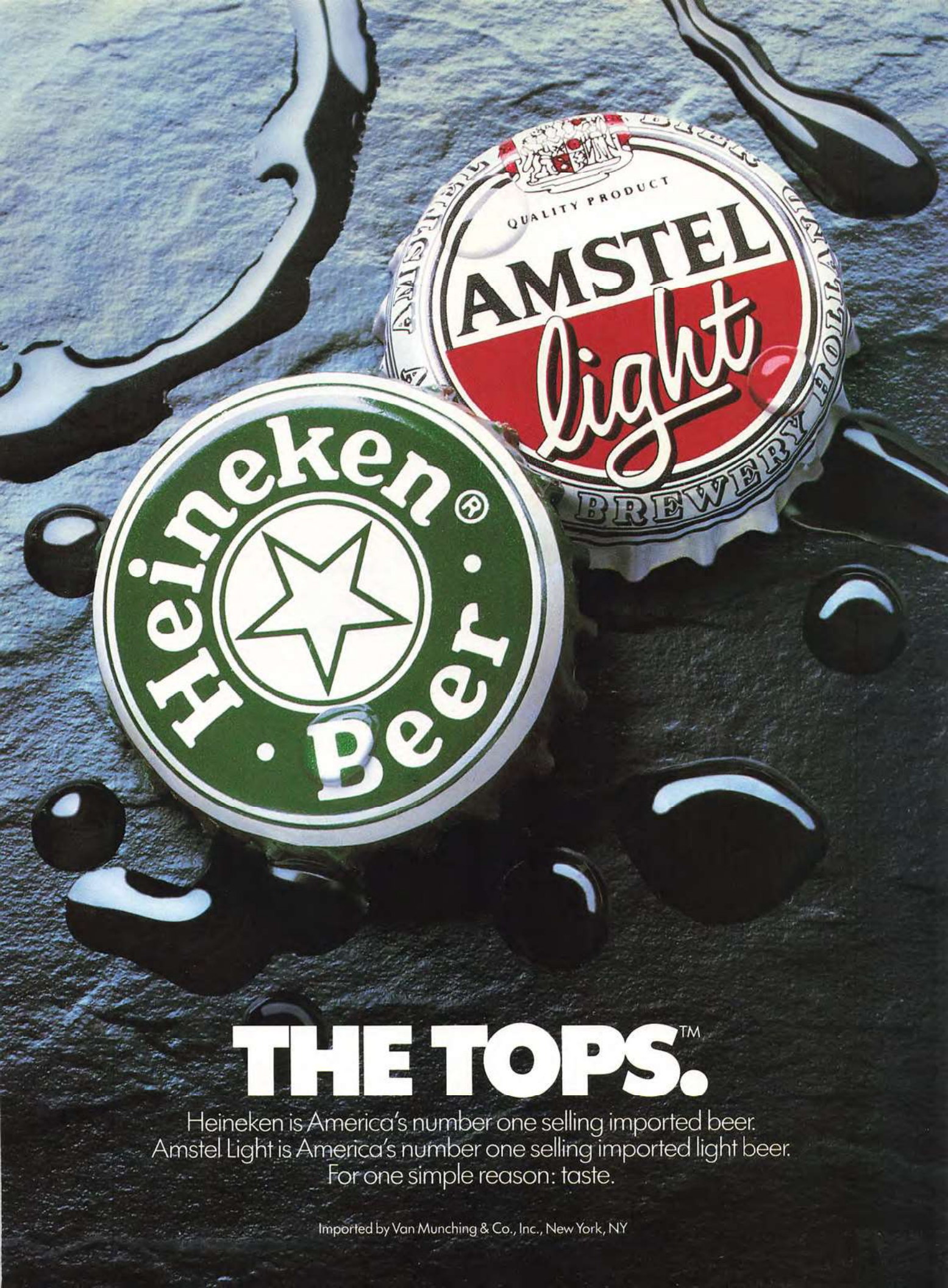
The Miami Dolphins helped bring American football to European fans in last year's American Bowl game in Berlin.

Interest also has accelerated in Japan with regular television football features. In 1992, there were three weekly programs about the NFL on the Nippon Television Network, and NFL games are regularly televised on three Japanese networks.

The American Bowl series of preseason games played abroad continued last year, celebrating the seventh renewal of the game in London, the fourth in Tokyo, and the third in Berlin. And next year a new American Bowl game will be added in Barcelona.

Thousands of fans abroad also are experiencing American football as players. In Japan, there are 216 college teams and 123 high school clubs. In Great Britain, nearly 10,000 play amateur games as part of the British American Football Association. Overall, 15 European countries maintain their own American football federations with more than 800 registered American football clubs and more than 80,000 kids and adults playing the game at all levels.

This exploding interest has spurred the NFL's educational efforts abroad. Through the NFL World Partnership, the NFL is working to increase the number of grassroots football programs and the availability of instructional publications and materials. And, beginning in February, 1993, four-time Super Bowl champion coach Chuck Noll, Barcelona Dragons head coach Jack Bicknell, and Frankfurt Galaxy head coach Jack Elway will tour Europe conducting instructional clinics for coaches, kids, and players.



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The lake is calm and the sleek kayaks are motionless at the line until the starter's gun goes off. Then, a very disciplined kind of hell breaks loose: teeth clench, faces contort, and muscles scream in a race of pure, paddle-digging stamina.

From lakeside, flat water sprint racing is beautiful to watch. But the smooth, straight-as-an-arrow glide of the kayaks belies the power and pain of the athletes. (And if you're curious about what exhaustion looks like, focus your binoculars about ten meters past the finish line.) It takes years of training to become this strong and this fast, but for all the effort the only sure thing in this sport is that if you're not back training the very next day, you're probably not going to make it to the finals of the next race—much less onto the U.S. National Team.

At Champion International Corporation, we manufacture paper and wood products. We also admire the personal tenacity it takes to excel in this sport and we're proud to sponsor the U.S. Canoe and Kayak Team. With the help of our sponsorship, America's amateur kayakers and canoeists get the equipment, coaching and support they need to reach the top of their form and their sport—and the chance to compete at the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta.

Competition at that level is grueling: it takes strength, stamina, concentration and nerve. And if you've ever seen a kayaker paddle furiously across the water—eyes focused on the finish—you'd know these athletes deserve all the support they can get.

Champion
Champion International Corporation
Official Sponsor
U.S. Canoe and Kayak Team

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Familiar Names, Unfamiliar Places

Jay Leno

Al Martinez

Andy Rooney

Some of the bylines appearing in today's game program may seem out of place: The musings of Jay Leno, Al Martinez, and Andy Rooney don't often wander into the sports arena. But on the occasion of Super Bowl XXVII, they agreed to share their unique perspectives.

Leno is the host of NBC's "Tonight Show," where he never hesitates to lampoon the great events and big names of our time. His humorous insights on the excitement that surrounds the game begin on page 106.

Martinez, a native Californian, is a columnist for the *Los Angeles Times* who writes about the often unique lifestyles of southern California. His examination of pro football, with the aid of a psychic, begins on page 118.

Rooney is a fixture on CBS's "60 Minutes," where his whimsical observations about life's tribulations are one of the highlights of the long-running show. He made his Super Bowl writing debut in last year's program. Rooney's musings on professional football begin on page 140.

A Few Good Men

The trophies: Rozelle and Lombardi (top, left and right), Hunt and Halas (bottom, left and right)

Community service and football excellence are recognized annually with five of the NFL's most prestigious awards—the Edge/NFL Man of the Year, Miller Lite NFL Player of the Year, Pro Set NFL Rookie of the Year, Starter NFL Coach of the Year, and the NFL Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Edge/NFL Man of the Year honors the league's outstanding "citizen-athlete." At the beginning of the season one nominee from each team is selected on the basis of performance on the field and exceptional service off the field. The winner is chosen from among this deserving group, and a $25,000 donation is made by Edge to the award-winner's favorite charity. Last year's NFL Man of the Year was Cincinnati tackle Anthony Muñoz.

For the past four seasons, Miller Lite has presented its NFL Player of the Year Award to the NFL's best player, as determined by a national media panel coordinated by the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Each week during the NFL season, players of the week are chosen from each active NFL team. A national player of the week also is picked. At the end of the regular season, 28 Miller Lite Team Players of the Year are selected. From that group, six NFL Player of the Year finalists are chosen. The finalists for the 1992 award are Barry Foster (Pittsburgh), Cortez Kennedy (Seattle), Junior Seau (San Diego), Sterling Sharpe (Green Bay), Emmitt Smith (Dallas), and Steve Young (San Francisco).

The top young player in the NFL each season is named the NFL Rookie of the Year. Sponsored by Pro Set, Inc., the winner is selected by a panel of sports journalists and former NFL Rookie of the Year Award winners and is given a $5,000 donation from Pro Set, Inc., for his favorite charity. Last season's winner was Denver linebacker Mike Croel.

The Starter NFL Coach of the Year Award goes to the head coach who did the most outstanding overall job leading his team. The 1991 winner was Detroit's Wayne Fontes.

Finally, the NFL Lifetime Achievement Award honors career contributions to the National Football League and the sport of pro football by an NFL owner or executive. The award was presented posthumously last year to beloved Pittsburgh Steelers owner Art Rooney.

All five awards were presented last night as part of the "Super Bowl Saturday Night" television special on Turner Network Television.

To the Victors...

The teams appearing in Super Bowl XXVII already have collected some handsome trophies, but more are at stake today. The George Halas Trophy (NFC) and Lamar Hunt Trophy (AFC) have been awarded to conference champions since 1984. The Vince Lombardi Trophy, named in memory of the late Packers coach in 1970, will be awarded to the Super Bowl winner. The Pete Rozelle Trophy, presented for the first time at Super Bowl XXV, goes to the game's most valuable player.

Each year, a new Lombardi Trophy is handcrafted for the Super Bowl winner. The trophy originally was designed in 1966 by Tiffany & Co. vice president Oscar Reidener. The four-step manufacturing process—including spinning, silver-smithing, chasing, and finishing—is done over a four-month period at Tiffany's silver workshops. After the game, the 7-pound, 21-inch-high trophy is returned to Tiffany's for final engraving.

ATTENTION COLLECTORS!

Don't look now, but your copy of the Official Super Bowl XXVII Game Program might be different from the one in your neighbor's lap. A half-dozen actual samples from the 1993 NFL GameDay trading-card set were randomly bound into programs as they rolled off the presses. You will find one of six players—Troy Aikman, Ray Childress, Monte Coleman, Barry Foster, Sterling Sharpe, or Chris Doleman—inserted between pages 168-169. One card from another collectible—a new nine-card Pro Line Profiles set of San Francisco 49ers quarterback Steve Young—can be found between pages 104-105.

NFL Y.E.T.

For 14 memorable years, from 1976-1989, Reggie Williams was a hard-hitting linebacker for the Cincinnati Bengals. Today, he tackles a different task: a community outreach program aimed at at-risk teenagers in the greater Los Angeles area.

Williams is spearheading the NFL's Youth Education Training Center (Y.E.T.), a youth enrichment center that initially will be funded from activities surrounding Super Bowl XXVII. Y.E.T., scheduled to open in 1993, will be managed by the United Way. It will offer a supervised environment that features educational and recreational facilities, including a reference library, computer lab, study hall, conditioning equipment, and football field. The unique focus of Y.E.T. allows participants to integrate recreational and learning activities with the adult working world and cutting-edge technology.

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The PlayPak lets you play your tape in your VCR or send it to your family, your friends, or anyone with a VHS recorder.

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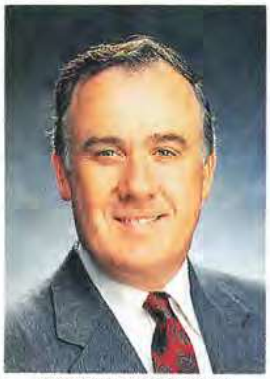

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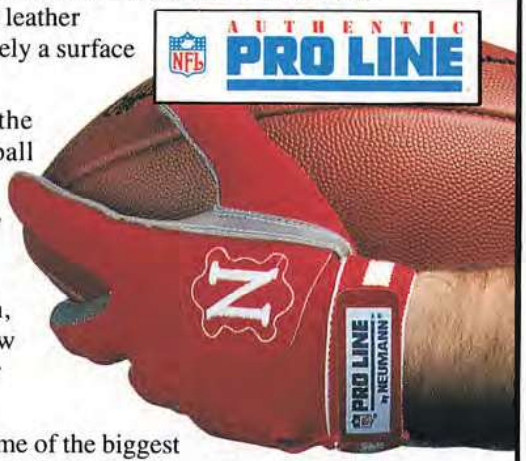

Our advisory staff includes some of the biggest names in professional football. *Lawrence Taylor* — N.Y. Giants, *Jerry Rice* — San Francisco 49ers, *Al Toon* — N.Y. Jets, *Art Monk* — Washington Redskins.

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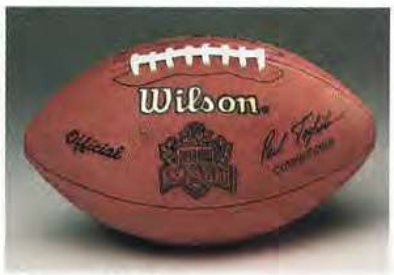
Kid Stuff

More than 5,000 Los Angeles-area boys and girls aged 11-14 got a chance to learn about football from the pros at the Lay's® Potato Chips NFL Super Bowl XXVII Youth Clinic. Two clinics were held the weekend prior to Super Bowl weekend, one on Saturday at UCLA's Drake Stadium and the other on Sunday on the Cal State Fullerton campus. Both clinics featured NFL stars—including Oilers quarterback Warren Moon, Saints linebacker Pat Swilling, Dolphins wide receiver Mark Clayton, and Seahawks defensive tackle Cortez Kennedy—teaching playing skills to the young fans. The players also conveyed strong anti-drug and pro-education messages. On Monday and Tuesday following the clinics, many of the participating players stayed in Los Angeles to carry their message to area schools and youth groups. Along with Lay's, the contributing sponsors to this year's clinics were Vons, Starter, KNBC-TV, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Orange County Register*, and radio stations KFI and KMPC. The clinics were staged by Nat Moore & Associates.



Have a Ball

Wilson, the official supplier of the NFL's game ball, has produced a Super Bowl XXVII commemorative football that will be used on the field during today's game. The ball features the Super Bowl XXVII logo, along with the date and site of the game. A limited number of these special game balls are available at selected sporting goods outlets, including the Foot Locker store at The NFL Experience outside the Rose Bowl.

Touchdown for Youth

More than 700 disadvantaged youths are in attendance at today's game as part of the Touchdown for Youth program, thanks to the combined efforts of the NFL, the Super Bowl XXVII Host Committee, and dozens of corporate sponsors. The youngsters were selected by 30 community service organizations in the greater Los Angeles area. They also will participate in Michael Jackson's performance during halftime. ☆

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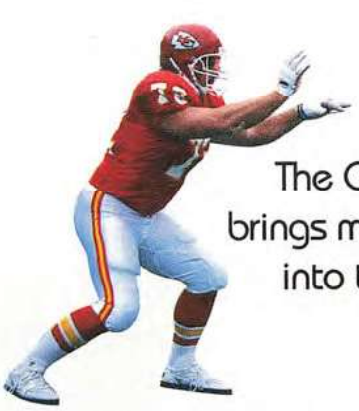
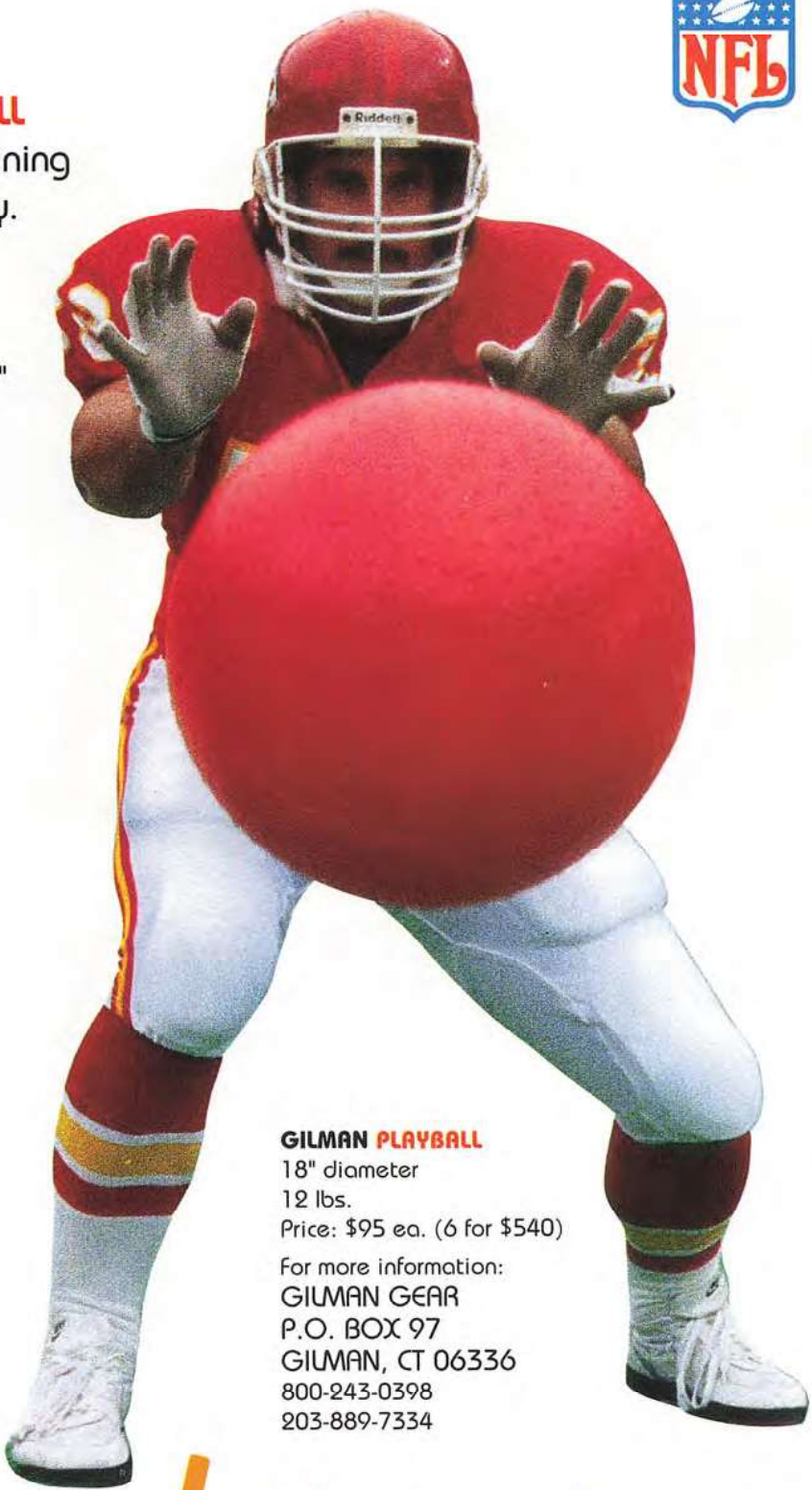


The GILMAN **PLAYBALL** brings medicine ball training into the 20th Century.



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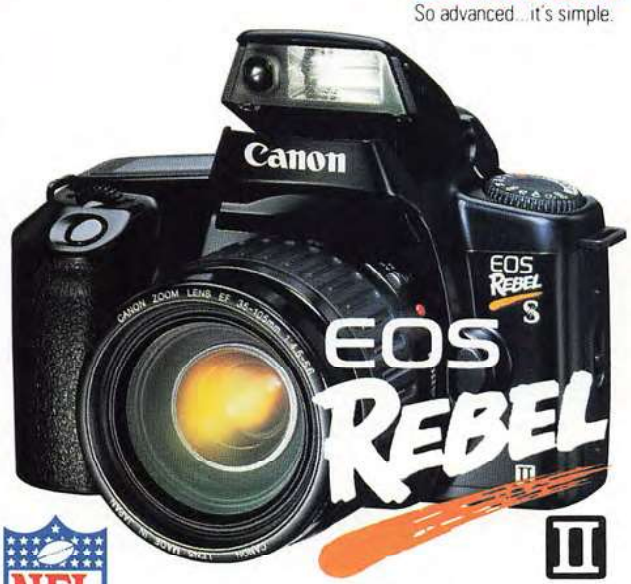

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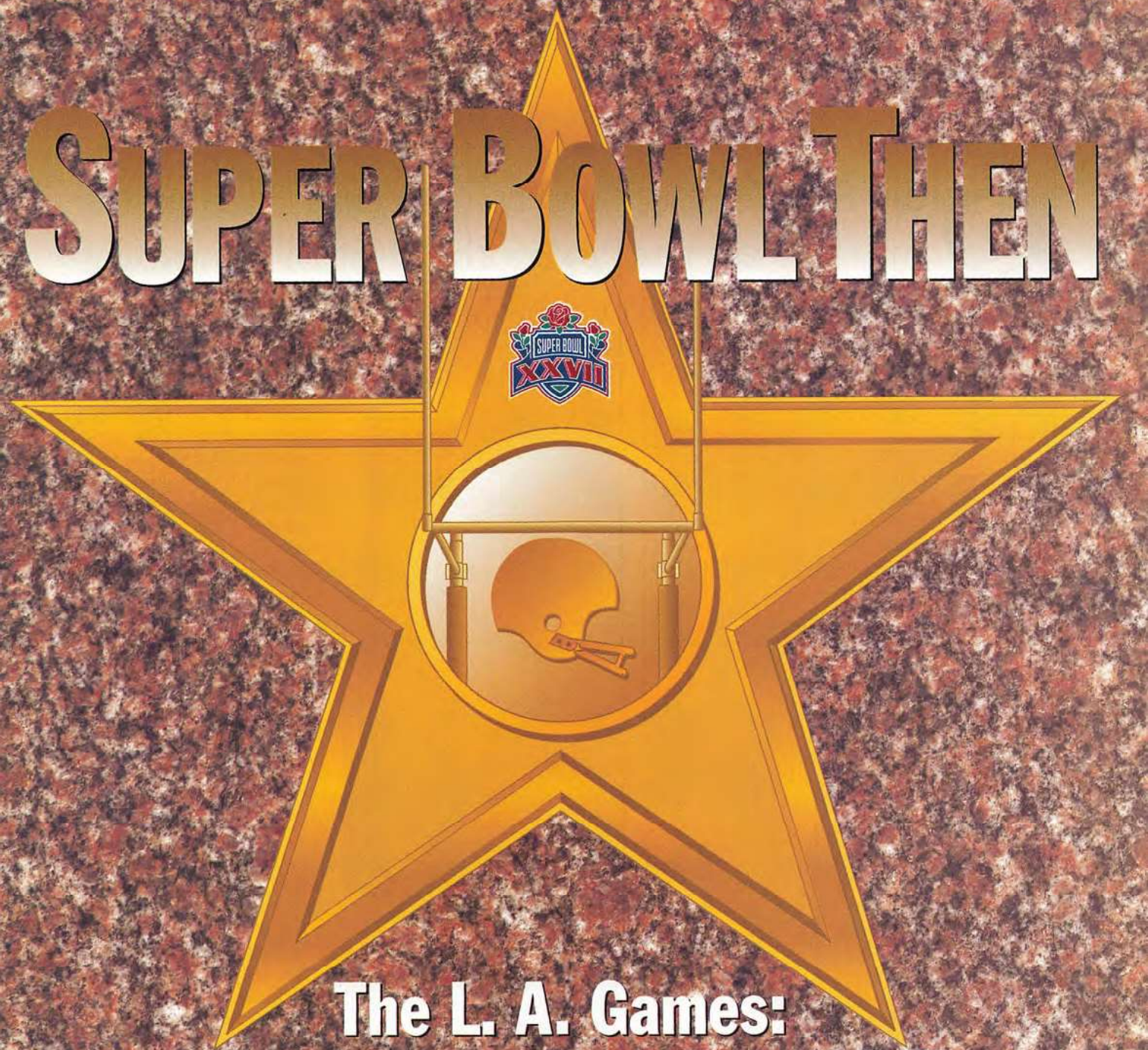
SUPER BOWL THEN

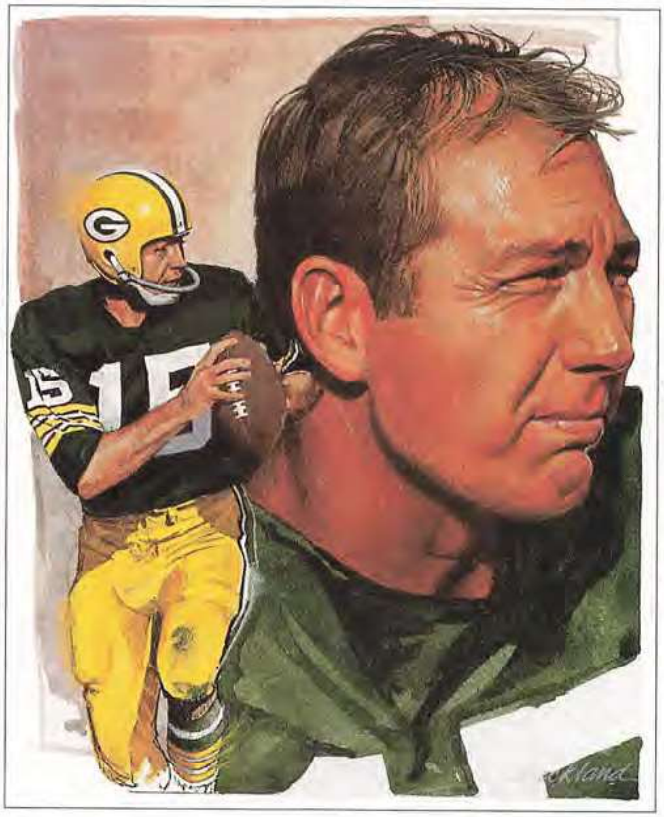


The L. A. Games: Memories of Super Bowl MVPs

Bart Starr • I
Jake Scott • VII
Fred Biletnikoff • XI
Terry Bradshaw • XIV
John Riggins • XVII
Phil Simms •XXI

L.A. MEMORIES • SUPER BOWL I

Bart Starr's speech is as clear and crisp as the morning air. The Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback and most valuable player of Super Bowls I and II answers each question with precision, remembering even the most obscure details.



"Coach [Vince] Lombardi wanted to separate us from the L.A. community [before Super Bowl I]," Starr says, "so we trained in Santa Barbara. We flew out on a chartered United 727. As we approached Santa Barbara, the pilot circled around the area to let us enjoy the ocean view.

"One of our tight ends, Bill Anderson, who was not keen on flying, was saying 'What's going on?' My roommate, Henry Jordan, an excellent defensive tackle, said, 'He's checking to see if the runway is long enough.' That put Bill in another world.

"Two days later, there was an article in the paper saying that United was canceling all future 727 flights into Santa Barbara because the runway was too short. Unbelievable, but true.

"The weather was wonderful in Santa Barbara. The footing was superb for practice. I believe the turf we practiced on was Tifton Bermuda, which is very short, very tight, and very spongy. It was beautiful. We were so captivated with the turf, Coach Lombardi had to pull us off the practice field on the first day we were there. He was concerned we were going to overwork. I mean, the guys were just going crazy. Linemen were running pass routes. It was great to be outside in an atmosphere like that."

Heading into Super Bowl I at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, Green Bay was expected to defeat Kansas City. Success for the Packers under Lombardi had become routine, and everything Starr had attempted in his NFL career, especially in the playoffs, had been routinely brilliant. In 10 postseason games, Starr completed 130 of 213 passes for 1,753 yards and 15 touchdowns, and his passer rating of 104.8 in the playoffs is an all-time best.

"We were supremely confident. We had an excellent week of work [before Super Bowl I], and we were extremely well prepared. I think there is a huge difference between supreme confidence and arrogance. Arrogance will bury you. Supreme confidence will take you to heights that you never have been to before. We were never arrogant, but we were supremely confident in situations like this because we knew we were going to win.

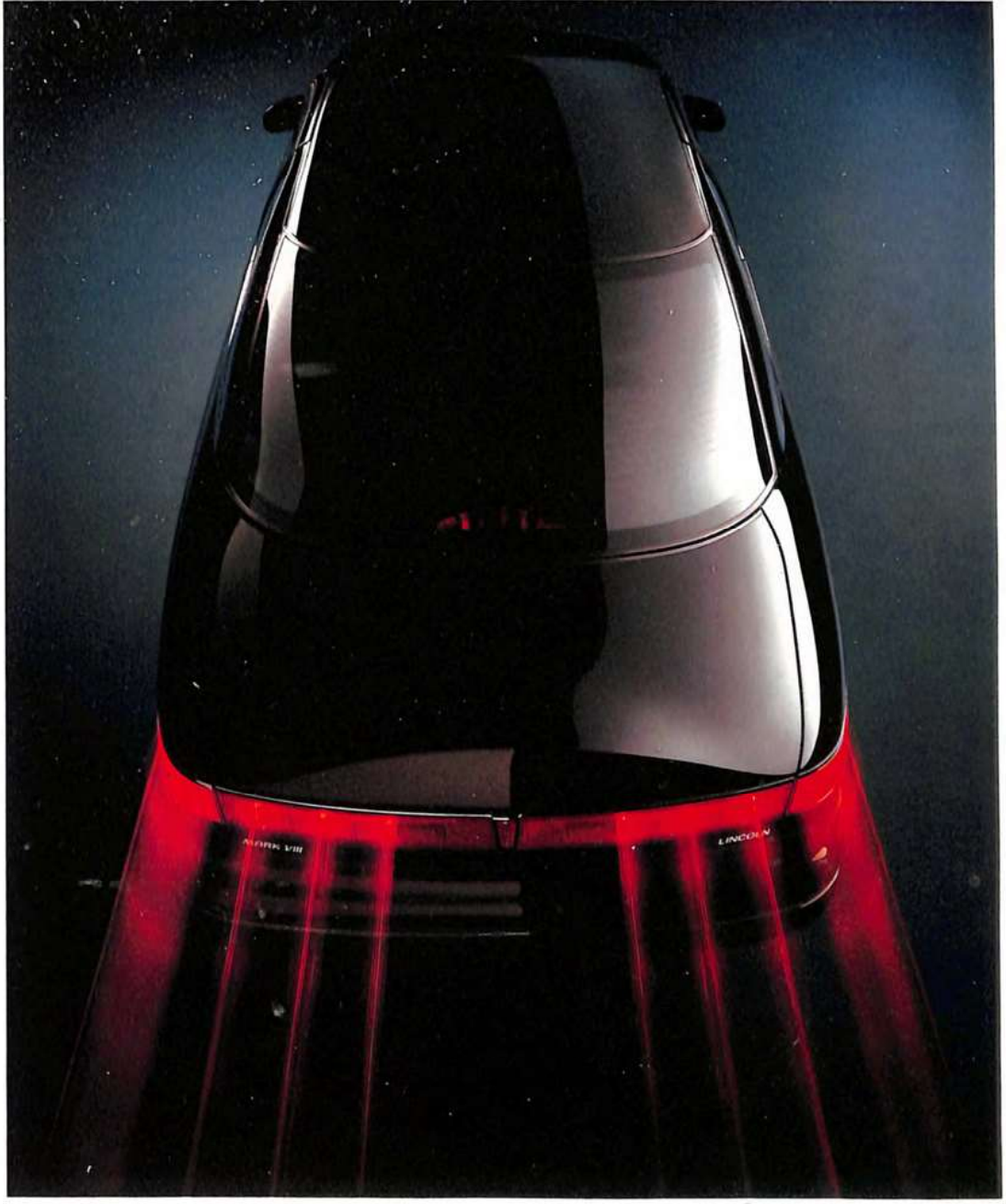
"I think one of our strengths is that we always had a plan and a routine that we followed. Whether you are in business or playing football, routine builds confidence, because what you are doing is repeating something that has been successful. You continue to build on your success, and your confidence level grows."

The Packers from the established NFL were heavily favored to defeat the Kansas City Chiefs of the AFL in Super Bowl I. But, with each team closely searching for weaknesses in the other's game plan, the Packers managed only a 14-10 halftime lead. The second half was a different story as Green Bay scored 21 unanswered points for a 35-10 victory. Starr completed 16 of 23 passes for 250 yards and 2 touchdowns.

"Lombardi was excellent at analyzing another team through film study," Starr says. "We had outstanding game plans, and that didn't change against the Chiefs. There have been many comments made about how fundamental a team we were, using a ball-control running game to set up the passing game. However, what most people did not realize was that we had an exceptional audible system. And our audibles were especially effective against the Chiefs.

"He [Lombardi] encouraged me and our other quarterbacks to use those. He would give us specific reasons why and examples how they would work. This also was a great confidence builder be-

Illustrations by Jim Auckland



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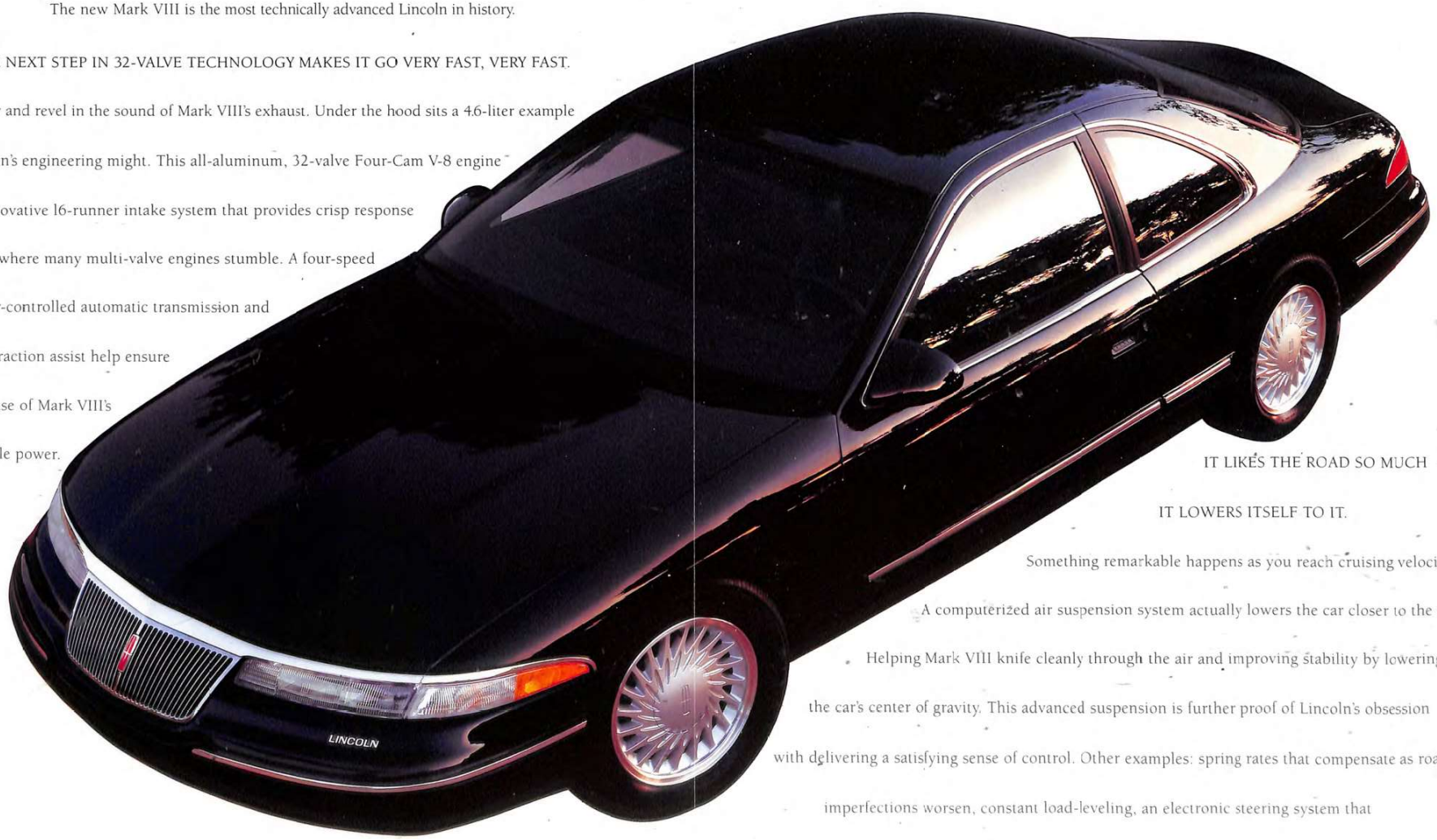

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cause he not only expected you to audible out of an unfavorable situation, but he encouraged it, demanded it. That was one of the reasons we did so well, certainly in the big games.

"In the Chiefs' defensive scheme, they left their cornerbacks isolated, and that's a tough assignment. When you put a guy out there man-for-man against our best receiver, that was a mismatch. That is where we took advantage of them. [In the second half, Starr was 8 of 10 for 122 yards, including a 13-yard scoring pass to Max McGee.]

"One of the biggest differences between us and the Chiefs was overall team maturity. They had excellent players, but we had a more complete *team*."

The Packers had just suffered through a 1-10-1 season—the worst in club history—when Lombardi became the head coach in 1959. And in Lombardi's nine years, Green Bay won five NFL titles (1961-62, 1965-67).

"When he [Lombardi] came to the Packers, we had something similar to the minicamps of today. After two hours of meetings, we took a break. I quickly ran downstairs to a pay phone in the Packers' office building and called my wife Cherry. I said, 'Honey, we are going to begin winning.' I mean, after two hours, it was so obvious that what we were lacking in Green Bay was leadership. We had talent, but we needed leadership. He [Lombardi] provided it.

"Pride was certainly a factor, too. The genuine desire to be the best that we could be. We had a leader who personified the phrase 'a quest for excellence,' from the day he arrived in Green Bay. I've always believed that leadership begins at the top, and we had that in our organization. We had a gentleman in front of us who wanted to win in the worst way, and that was contagious. I wanted to be the best, and I wanted to be part of a team that would represent being the best. That is what drove us to excel. And if you are going to show people that, you have to show them in the ultimate game [the Super Bowl].

"[After Super Bowl] at a victory party Lombardi was very happy, very jovial, and yet, a little reserved in that he maintained being the leader—extremely happy and proud. He made his rounds throughout the crowd all night, congratulating everyone, telling us how proud he was of us. That was one of the things that I always thought Lombardi was very good at. He made sure that he talked to everyone, put his arm around the guys after the game, or patted them on the back."

"We were supremely confident...I think there is a huge difference between supreme confidence and arrogance. Arrogance will bury you. Supreme confidence will take you to heights that you never have been to before."

Starr also notes that his teammates played an equally important role in the Packers' two Super Bowl victories. Seven of the players—Herb Adderley, Willie Davis, Forrest Gregg, Paul Hornung, Ray Nitschke, Jim Taylor, and Willie Wood—from those teams have joined Starr in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

"One of the most poignant memories I have regarding the word 'team' came during the early 1960s. Bob Skoronski, our offensive captain, and Norm Masters actually divided playing time at left tackle. Both were excellent players and could have starred for any team.

"I remember completing a [64-yard] touchdown pass to Carroll Dale on third-and-one. We had an [illegal] motion penalty, and the play was called back. On third-and-six, we simply went to another receiver, Max McGee, who converted the third-down play. Play like that made me proud to be a part of this team. No one got upset. It was a penalty, but we just turned around and drove down the field for the touchdown.

"We had a great player named Elijah Pitts who basically was a backup running back to Hornung during his career. But in all his years, Pitts never made a mental error. Not one time. Now that is preparation. Underline that word and see how significant it is to winning. This is a guy who doesn't always know when he will play, but he never made a mental error.

"Again, it was those types of things. It was Willie Wood intercepting the ball in the third quarter [of Super Bowl I]—a clutch play. The guy steps up, says, 'Give it to me, I'll take the challenge.' He makes the interception and breaks it open. Those were the type of players and plays that symbolized the Packers of the 1960s and why we won championships."

The Super Bowl is an experience of the highest level and even in 1967 there was overwhelming media attention.

"He [Lombardi] prepared us for the media blitz," Starr says, "but he also told us to welcome it. This went with the territory. Dealing with the media was our responsibility, and he expected us to conduct ourselves in a manner that was typical of the attitude of the Green Bay Packers.

"I enjoyed the [Super Bowl] media. It has changed a great deal today. The teams now organize large, formal press conferences. I remember sitting outside on the patio of my hotel room in Santa Barbara, sitting in my room, or in the hotel lobby, and someone from the media always was sitting with me. We spent a lot of time with them [the press] in very private surroundings. It was just one-on-one, and it worked real well.

"After practices for the Pro Bowl [which also was held in Los Angeles the week after Super Bowl I], my wife and I—we were Hollywood fans—would go to the television or movie lots to watch shows being produced.

"I remember getting a gracious invitation to visit Kirk Douglas's home, which was very nice. I also met some stars—Clint Eastwood, Jimmy Stewart, Burt Lancaster, and Doris Day."

—Brian Peterson

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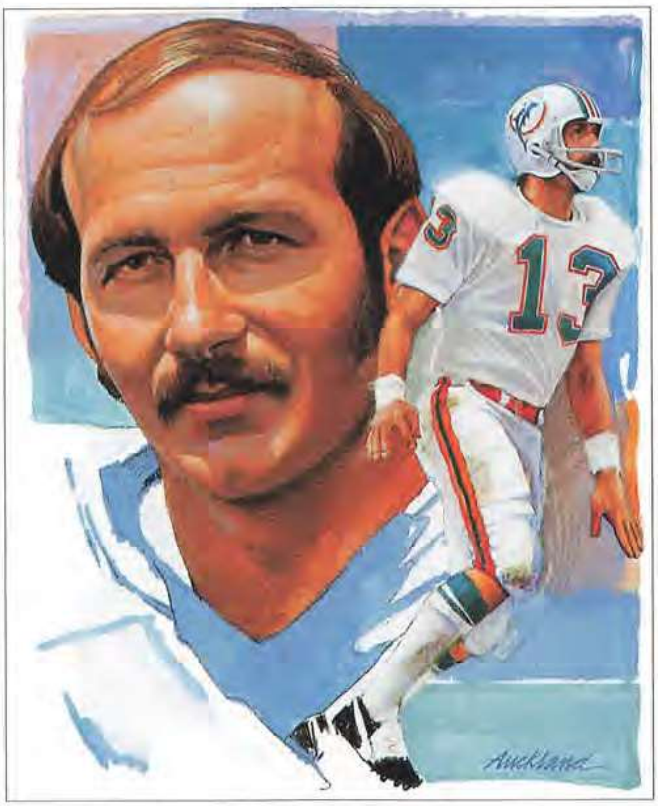
L.A. MEMORIES • SUPER BOWL VII

Jake Scott once said there were only two things he loved—football and freedom. Winning the most-valuable-player award in Super Bowl VII gave the Dolphins' safety the opportunity to show an entire nation just how deep his love went.



"Without question, he [Scott] was one of the NFL's top safeties," says Dolphins quarterback Bob Griese. "He was always thinking. He always went to where the ball was going. You better have known where Scott was on the field or he was going to hurt you."

"Jake was probably the brightest, most intuitive football player I ever played with," says Dolphins Pro Bowl safety Dick Anderson, Scott's secondary partner from 1970-75. Anderson is second to Scott (35) on the club's all-time interception list with 34.

"If the ball was in his area, he was going to make a play. In different games, there were situations where an opportunity for a big play arose. Jake is the one who made it, always," says Anderson.

In Miami's 14-7 victory over Washington in Super Bowl VII, the 6-0, 188-pound Scott showed Redskins quarterback Billy Kilmer just how badly he could hurt an opponent, intercepting 2 passes, recording 2 tackles, and breaking up a potential touchdown pass at the Miami 2-yard line.

Scott's second interception came with the Redskins on the Miami 10, trailing by 14 points, and a little more than five minutes remaining in the game. Kilmer tried to find Charley Taylor in the end zone on third-and-6, but instead found Scott, who returned the ball 55 yards.

Statistics don't tell the full story of Scott's impressive performance. In fact, Dolphins running back Larry Csonka (15 carries for 112 yards), quarterback Bob Griese (8 completions in 11 attempts for 88 yards and 1 touchdown), or defensive tackle Manny Fernandez (6 solo tackles, including 1 sack) easily could have been the most valuable player instead.

"I would have to say it was just plain intelligence," says Fernandez, describing what made Scott a cut above the rest. "Jake had a knack for being in the right place at the right time. That comes from knowing your position, knowing what the opposition likes to do in certain situations.

"He was a field general in the secondary. He just had a sixth sense—that great player sense. And he also had great quickness to go with a total disregard for his body. He had no fear of anything.

"Jake played a helluva ball game that day, and his contribution to the win was as much as the contribution I made. It was a team victory. I think it's a shame that they have to pick MVPs."

But Scott's game was special. There are few football players who gave as much in each game as the All-America from Georgia did during a nine-year NFL career that included five Pro Bowl selections, and Super Bowl VII was no exception.

"Our only major worry all day was that we might let Washington get its running game going to the point where Billy Kilmer could hurt us with play-action passes," Scott said at the time. "If they could run well against us, we feared they might be able to sucker our linebackers into forgetting their pass-defense responsibilities. Obviously, that never happened."

That statement reflected the type of player Scott was. For a man who could have been the inspiration for the Bionic Man, Scott should have been more concerned with whether he would be able to play at all.

"We can rebuild him...we have the technology" could have served as Scott's motto. He entered the game against the Redskins with three steel bolts holding his left hand together, a metal screw in his left elbow, and a separated right shoulder.

Scott broke his hand in a 1971 divisional playoff game against the Chiefs, which the Dolphins won 27-24 in double overtime—the longest game in NFL history.

"I busted the hand up real good," Scott said. "It happened in the first quarter, but I kept playing. I figured I could stand the pain for four quarters. My luck, the game went six.

"I'm not worried about getting arthritis when I'm older, but I might have trouble with my parts rusting."

Scott said the only thing that would keep him from playing in the Super Bowl was if he dropped dead.

"Jake was a great team player," Anderson says. "Anybody who plays in a Super Bowl [VI] with a broken hand and a broken wrist with just a little tape on them is a *tough* guy. After the game, we went skiing in Colorado and Jake had both hands in casts. So we put socks over the casts and baggies over the socks to keep his hands dry and warm.

"It's like when you get up in the morning and you've got the sniffles," Scott said. "You can't just go back to bed. You go to work, right? Same thing with football. You play even when it hurts. And when it's the Super Bowl, you play even if it kills you.

"In the early seventies and I guess prior to then, football always had been gauged by a team's toughness, not its athletic ability," Fernandez says. "When it gets down to crunch time, it's the guys thick in the hip that win the game—the blockers and tacklers. You gotta be tough, and teams that win Super Bowls are tough teams."

Scott is a legitimate free spirit, a one-of-a-kind individualist. He tells you what he thinks and doesn't beat around the bush. If Scott wants to do something, he approaches the effort with the determination of a pit bull. But if he doesn't want to be bothered, it's similar to talking with a brick wall.

"Jake is probably the most open and honest person that I ever have met," Anderson says. "If I ever were in a dark alley in a fight, or a foxhole in the war, I would want Jake Scott on my side.

"I wouldn't try to explain or say anything about the way Jake is with people he doesn't like. He's fiercely loyal to his friends, chooses what he wants to do and leads his own life, and he makes no bones about it. If he doesn't like you, he'll tell you. I respect Jake Scott immensely."

"It's like when you get up in the morning and you've got the sniffles....You go to work, right? Same thing with football. You play even when it hurts. And when it's the Super Bowl, you play even if it kills you."

"Jake is about as stubborn as anyone I've ever met," says Fernandez. "He just makes up his mind about something, and nobody is going to change it."

As is customary, Scott received a new car—a Dodge Charger—for winning the MVP award. Not customarily, Scott turned down the high-powered car and instead requested a pickup truck.

"Jake told them [the people from Dodge] that he wanted a pickup truck," says Anderson. "They asked him why and prodded him to accept the Charger, but he just said 'No, I want a pickup.'

"His pickup probably cost more than the most expensive Dodge ever built at the time. His truck had 4-wheel drive, a heavy-duty axle, a winch on the front, and other special items. It was fully loaded."

"I was living on a forty-acre spread Dick Anderson and I bought out in God's country in Colorado," Scott said. "What was I gonna do out there with a big sedan? That would be like having two football helmets."

Like most Super Bowl MVPs, Scott also received his share of offers for endorsements. Unlike most MVPs, Scott turned them all down.

"What was I gonna do?" Scott said referring to endorsements. "Pose for ads in a bathing suit? I'm too skinny to do that. Was I gonna do hair spray commercials? I don't have enough hair. Man, I can't be something I'm not. I'm a football player, not an actor or a comedian.

"I got all these offers to do speeches for one thousand dollars one night and five hundred the next night. Personal appearances at stores and crap like that. Who needs it? A lot of guys who don't know anything about football asking dumb questions."

One endorsement Scott did (with Anderson) was for a wig company in Miami after Super Bowl VI. The hair piece ended up in the mouth of Scott's dog.

"His free-spirit part is off the field," Anderson says. "Jake is independent. He's never been married. He does exactly what he wants—and he still lives that way. That's his choice, and many people can't do that. Jake does.

"On the field, Jake was not a free spirit. Each person on our defense had a specific job. Bill Arnsparger, our defensive coordinator, put all the players in situations that would best utilize our talents. If Jake or I thought we should do something differently, we would talk with Arnsparger. Usually he would agree.

"What people have to realize is the definition of a free safety. People think they are free. In our defense, everybody had a set position. Occasionally he [Jake] would free up, but he always had specific duties. Jake, like all others on the team, took pride in the fact that he wouldn't make a mental error."

"Luck certainly played a big part of it [the Dolphins winning Super Bowl VII and finishing the season 17-0]," Fernandez says. "But the fact is that we meshed our personalities together so well. Our team of individuals got along with each other very well. It was a group of unusually bright football players. I don't want to say we were intellectual giants, but we absolutely understood where we wanted to go and what we had to do to get there."

Jake Scott probably understood better than anyone.

—Brian Peterson

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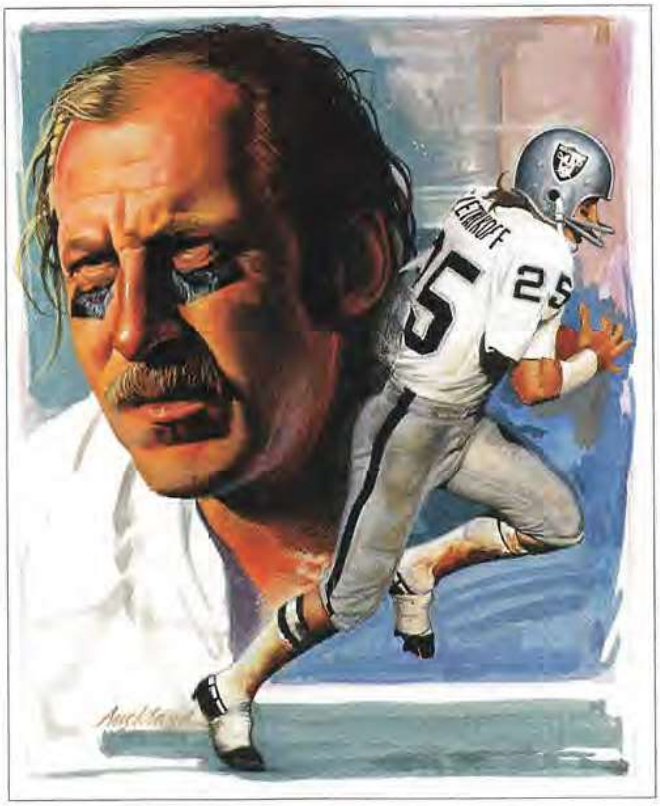
L.A. MEMORIES • SUPER BOWL XI

Midway through the fourth quarter of Super Bowl XI, Raiders wide receiver **Fred Biletnikoff** decided it was time to speak up. "Post pattern," he told quarterback Ken

Stabler in the huddle.

Oakland was leading Minnesota 19-7 in the first Super Bowl played at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California (it was the third game played in the Los Angeles area), but the Vikings were threatening to make a game of it, as they scored on their last possession of the third quarter. Then, after sacking Stabler and forcing a punt on Oakland's next possession, Minnesota marched 41 yards, only to lose the ball on an interception.



Now it was third-and-6, and the Vikings were looking to get the ball back. The Raiders had kept Minnesota off balance all day by running in situations such as this. In the first quarter, Clarence Davis had gotten Oakland out of a big hole by racing 35 yards on third-and-7.

Of course, just when one tried to outthink the Raiders, they would counter with another strategic curve ball.

"We wanted to avoid patterns," Oakland head coach John Madden said later. "They have a pass defense in which they do a lot of line stunting and a run defense in which they tighten it up and press it more. If you can pop a run against their pass defense, you're gone, and sometimes you can pass against their run defense."

Indeed, Biletnikoff had caught 3 passes to this point—2 on first-and-10, the other on third-and-3 near the goal line.

But this was no time to debate strategy or run down the clock. Stabler figured that if Biletnikoff wanted the ball, he'd better heed the request.

"Freddie doesn't talk much in the huddle," the quarterback said. "So when he asks for something, I listen to him."

Biletnikoff broke free in the Vikings' zone and caught the ball in full stride at the Minnesota 35. He wasn't knocked down until he reached the 2. The Raiders scored on the next play to put the game out of reach.

So it went for Biletnikoff on this day: He would do the blue-collar work, moving the ball near the goal line, positioning the Raiders to score.

Oakland led only 3-0 midway through the second quarter, when Stabler found Biletnikoff on an out pattern for a 5-yard completion to set up first-and-goal at the 1.

"I had to come out of the end zone because Stabler led me away from the coverage," Biletnikoff said. "But we only needed a first down anyway."

Indeed, the southpaw quarterback fired a fastball high and outside, the only place that cornerback Nate Wright, in close pursuit, could not interfere with it. Biletnikoff snatched the ball out of the air with ease, as he did 659 times (70 of those in postseason games) in his career.

"'Hands' are more than having a gift for catching the ball," Madden once said. "The true definition of hands is where both hands work as one. I learned that from watching Freddie."

Stabler tossed a touchdown pass to tight end Dave Casper on the next play, and the Raiders had opened a 10-0 advantage.

The Vikings failed to get a first down following the ensuing kickoff, and a 25-yard punt return by Neal Colzie gave Oakland possession on the Minnesota 35.

Three plays later it was first-and-10 from the 18. Stabler threw the ball low and over the middle.

"In any pattern, I took into consideration the four men on my side—the cornerback, the safety, the outside linebacker, and the middle linebacker," Biletnikoff said.

He knew Wright was on his hip, and strong safety Bobby Bryant was rushing over to help. So Biletnikoff went into a slide, grabbing

the ball off the tip of the grass and coming to a halt just inches from the goal line.

Pete Banaszak scored on the next play, and the Raiders had broken open the game, 16-0.

Biletnikoff's 48-yard catch in the fourth quarter ended the Vikings' comeback hopes.

"[Wright] was playing bump-and-run, and he tried to bump me and missed," Biletnikoff said.

Banaszak scored his second touchdown—again on the subsequent play—and the Raiders went on to win 32-14.

All this was nothing new to Biletnikoff. While he scored 76 touchdowns in his career with the Raiders, he also set up teammates for countless others with clutch catches.

Prior to Super Bowl XI, his most notable had come in 1974, in a divisional playoff game against the three-time defending AFC-champion Dolphins.

Benny Malone's 23-yard touchdown run had put Miami ahead 26-21 with 2:08 left in the game. Twenty-three seconds later, the Raiders were faced with third-and-3 at their own 39-yard line.

Stabler found Biletnikoff for an 18-yard gain and a first down, then went back to him for 20 yards. That set up Stabler's 8-yard touchdown pass to running back Clarence Davis with 26 seconds left, giving Oakland a dramatic 28-26 victory.

Ironically, the play on which the Raiders scored the winning touchdown had been designed to go to Biletnikoff.

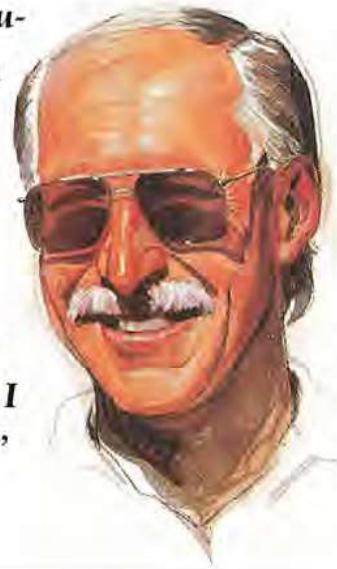
He caught 8 passes for 122 yards, including a spectacular 13-yard touchdown in the third quarter. But most of the plaudits went to Stabler and Davis, who caught the ball in the end zone amidst a pack of defenders.

Similarly, in Super Bowl XI, Biletnikoff watched as his teammates basked in the glory of scoring touchdowns. But when it was his turn to accept the trophy and the car that went with being named MVP, he demurred.

"I wish every guy on the team could get this," he said. "It makes me truly feel guilty winning it."

The truth is, any of a number of Raiders could have been voted the MVP and there wouldn't have been much argument.

"I wish every guy on the team could get this [the Super Bowl most-valuable-player award]. It makes me truly feel guilty in winning it....The way those guys played that day, you've got to wonder why I got the award."



Davis rushed for a career-high 137 yards on only 16 carries; Stabler completed 12 of 19 passes (10 of 15 in the first half) for 180 yards and 1 touchdown; Casper caught 4 passes for 70 yards and a score; cornerback Willie Brown returned an interception 75 yards for the final touchdown; and tackle Art Shell and guard Gene Upshaw manned the left side of Oakland's offensive line, behind which the Raiders accumulated nearly all of their Super Bowl-record 266 rushing yards.

"The way those guys played that day, you've got to wonder why I got the award," Biletnikoff said.

He got it because he had put on a receiving clinic, catching 4 passes for 79 yards and positioning the Raiders for 3 easy touchdowns.

The victory was especially sweet for Biletnikoff because he also had been a starter on Oakland's 1967 AFL championship team, which was blasted 33-14 by Green Bay in Super Bowl II.

"I don't remember much about that game, other than being scared," Biletnikoff said. "So was everyone around me. Everyone was in a daze."

After the victory in XI, Madden was in a daze. He wasn't sure what to do next.

"Don't I always go to the Pro Bowl?" he asked. "I coach the Raiders for the season, then I coach the American Conference in the Pro Bowl."

He was referring, of course, to the fact that the losing coaches in the conference championship games coach the all-stars in the Pro Bowl. The Raiders had lost three straight AFC title games before finally defeating Pittsburgh 24-7 in the 1976 game.

Those losses meant Oakland had to deal with the stigma of not being able to win the Big One. Still, Madden and his staff made the most of their Pro Bowl trips.

"We were able to watch things in the Pro Bowl," he said. "We were able to look at people to see if there were things in common, to get a profile of an all-pro."

If that's the case, Madden's composite for the all-star wide receiver never would have come up as Fred Biletnikoff. Maybe it would have come up as Cliff Branch, Oakland's speedy, game-breaking wide receiver. Or maybe it would have resembled Ahmad Rashad, the Vikings' fluid, acrobatic pass-catcher. But Biletnikoff? Nah.

A 14-year veteran (1965-1978) who was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1988, Biletnikoff hardly was the prototypical wide receiver.

The Raiders listed him at 6-1 and 190 pounds, but he looked smaller and thinner than that. Though he was an outstanding college receiver, many scouts felt his lack of speed might keep him from making an impact as a professional.

Biletnikoff, known for his ability to catch anything thrown in his direction, had a tireless work ethic. Madden called him a "man-made receiver" who labored for everything he got.

When Biletnikoff retired, he ranked fourth on the NFL's all-time list with 589 regular-season receptions for 8,974 yards.

A speedier receiver might have scored on that fourth-quarter play in Super Bowl XI. A stronger one may have been able to shake off Bryant's touchdown-saving nudge of a tackle.

But as a complete package, Fred Biletnikoff was a classic.

—Jim Gigliotti

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Super Bowl
THEN

L.A. MEMORIES • SUPER BOWL XIV

Terry Bradshaw awoke at 3 A.M. the day the Pittsburgh Steelers were to meet the Los Angeles Rams in Super Bowl XIV.

Bradshaw had gone to bed only a few hours earlier, but he wasn't able to fall back to sleep.

Twelve hours later, as the kickoff neared, the lack of sleep was beginning to show.

"I was sleepy, and that was a bad sign," Bradshaw says.

There were other bad signs.

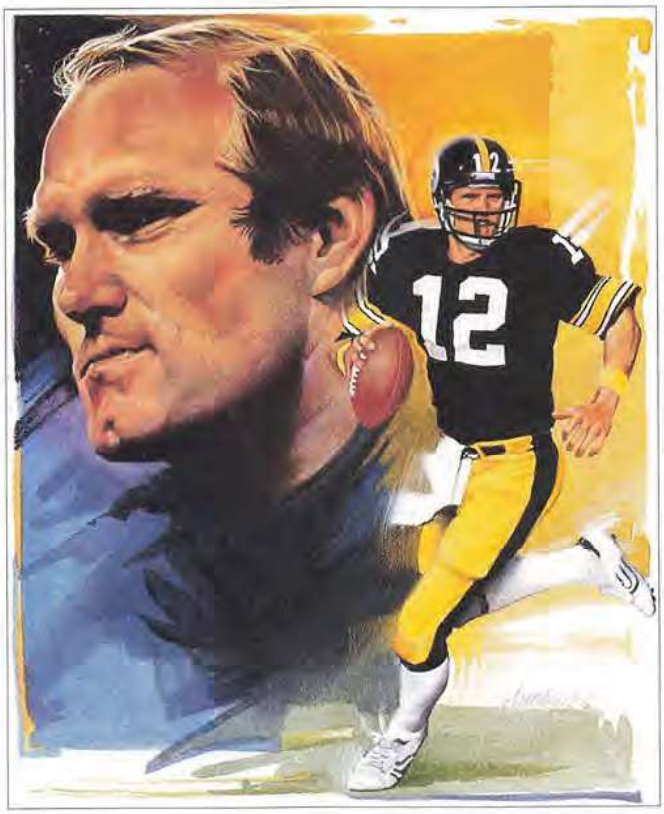
The Steelers' quarterback and his teammates knew all about the movie *Heaven Can Wait*, released just a year earlier, in which a Warren Beatty-led Rams team beats Pittsburgh in a fictitious Super Bowl.

"I figured that was a bad omen," he says.

Then Bradshaw missed chapel service the morning of the Steelers' real-life Super Bowl XIV matchup with Los Angeles.

"Another bad omen," he remembers.

Besides all that, Pittsburgh would be going for its second consecutive NFL title and unprecedented fourth Super Bowl victory in Pasadena, California's Rose Bowl—practically in the Rams' backyard.



In short, "I was primed to have a bad day," says Bradshaw, now a studio pundit for "The NFL Today" on CBS-TV.

And, for a while against the Rams, the prophecies were on target. When Rams cornerback Rod Perry intercepted Bradshaw's pass deep in Los Angeles territory on the next-to-last play of the third quarter, the heavily favored Steelers—the biggest Super Bowl favorite since the ill-fated Colts in game III against the Jets—trailed 19-17.

Bradshaw had completed 12 of 17 passes for 191 yards to that point, but he had been intercepted 3 times, including each of Pittsburgh's two possessions after running back Lawrence McCutcheon had thrown a 24-yard, option-pass touchdown to Ron Smith that had given the Rams the lead five minutes into the third quarter.

"It's crazy to admit it, but we really weren't focused," says Bradshaw. "We were struggling, and they were playing well. But, honestly, we were up against a team that really didn't scare us much."

There was good reason for that. Los Angeles had won only 9 of 16 games during the 1979 regular season and reached the Super Bowl with an unimpressive 9-0 victory over a fledgling Tampa Bay team in the NFC Championship Game.

Moreover, Super Bowl XIV was only the eighth start of Rams quarterback Vince Ferragamo's career. He figured to cave in to the pressure of playing in the NFL's biggest game (he didn't, throwing for 212 yards). Meanwhile, the Steelers were an experienced, veteran team that had won three of the previous five Super Bowls.

But there were signs that Pittsburgh was beginning to descend from its lofty heights. The Steelers' vaunted defense, the prime force in the club's victories in Super Bowls IX and X, was beginning to show some cracks, allowing 262 points during the regular season—a creditable figure, but more points than any other Pittsburgh team since 1971, the last time the Steelers failed to make the playoffs.

"We really were dealing with a team in decline," Bradshaw says. "We were good, and occasionally we could be great, but we were not consistently dominating the way some of the previous Steelers' teams had been."

In truth, then, Super Bowl XIV was to be the last hurrah for this particular group of Steelers.

"We had a great thing going," Bradshaw says, "but I think that we were all smart enough to realize that this wasn't going to last forever. There was a strong realization that we were going to go through some changes."

The most immediate of which, it seemed, was losing a Super Bowl.

"It turned out to be a tough game for us," Bradshaw says. "The Rams moved the ball better than we did. They played hard, and Bud had his defense ready."

"Bud" was Bud Carson, the Rams' defensive coordinator and former defensive coordinator of the Steelers, the architect of the famed Steel Curtain defense. Los Angeles also had defensive line coach Dan Radakovich and offensive coordinator Lionel Taylor, both former Pittsburgh assistants, on its sideline.

"They were adjusting very well to what we were doing," says Steelers head coach Chuck Noll. "After a while, we tried to get into audible situations, but they figured that out, too."

Indeed, when Bradshaw would audiblize, the Rams would move right with him.

"They knew what we were doing on offense," Bradshaw says.

Each time the Steelers threatened to take control of the game, the Rams fought back.

Pittsburgh jumped to a 3-0 lead on its first possession, but Los Angeles answered with a 59-yard scoring drive, capped by Cullen Bryant's 1-yard run; the Steelers regained the lead on Franco Harris's 1-yard touchdown run early in the second quarter, but the Rams took the ensuing kickoff and marched 67 yards to the tying field goal.

Frank Corral's second field goal, from 45 yards with 14 seconds left in the first half, gave the Rams a 13-10 advantage at the intermission.

And then a curious thing happened.

The stoic Noll, normally credited with as much a sense of humor as a tax accountant on April 14, mugged for a CBS cameraman on his way to the locker room, as if to say, "What? Me, worry?"

"Chuck always sensed how our team was feeling, knew what we needed," says Bradshaw. "And I think he sensed that we were uptight."

Noll's antics aside, not much happened early in the second half to put Steelers fans at ease.

Pittsburgh drove to a touchdown just 2:48 into the third quarter, but it took the Rams only 4 plays to move 77 yards and take the lead again, on McCutcheon's touchdown pass.

Three plays later, Los Angeles nearly built on its two-point advantage when safety Nolan Cromwell stepped in front of a Bradshaw pass with nothing but an open field ahead of him. But he dropped the ball.

Still, the Rams were counter-punching every time the Steelers punched.

"They knew our system," says Bradshaw. "Our system hadn't changed, with one exception."

That exception was called 60-Prevent-Slot-Hook-and-Go. And that turned out to be the difference.

"I really didn't think it would work," Bradshaw says. "I don't think I completed it once all week in practice."

But he connected with it twice in the fourth quarter on Super Sunday, parlaying the bombs to wide receiver John Stallworth into the Steelers' 31-19 victory and Bradshaw's second consecutive Super Bowl MVP award.

The first completion came early in the fourth quarter. Pittsburgh forced the Rams to punt following Perry's interception, then faced third-and-8 at its own 27-yard line.

Bradshaw had already lost starting wide receiver Lynn Swann and backup Theo Bell to injuries.

Stallworth and Jim Smith were the lone remaining pass catchers on the roster. So the Rams could double-cover the receivers.

But Stallworth faked a hook and took off deep over the middle. Bradshaw's pass was just over Perry's outstretched fingertips. Stallworth's 73-yard touchdown gave Pittsburgh a 24-19 lead.

Later in the quarter, after linebacker Jack Lambert snuffed a Rams' drive that had reached the Steelers' 32 with a first-down interception at the 14, Bradshaw and Stallworth teamed again on the same play, this time for 45 yards. That set up Franco Harris's 1-yard run with 1:49 left in the game, sealing Pittsburgh's victory.

Bradshaw finished with 14 completions in 21 attempts for 309 yards and 2 touchdowns. Still, he claims it was not one of his best days.

"I'm not kidding," he says. "The first touchdown pass I threw [47 yards to Swann early in the third quarter], Lynn made a great leaping catch. The next was a blown coverage and the other guy came over and missed by a hangnail. It was just one of those days."

More relieved than ebullient afterward, he hinted at retirement.

"It was an emotional game for me," he says now. "I threw some really stupid interceptions. I just wasn't as focused as I should have been.

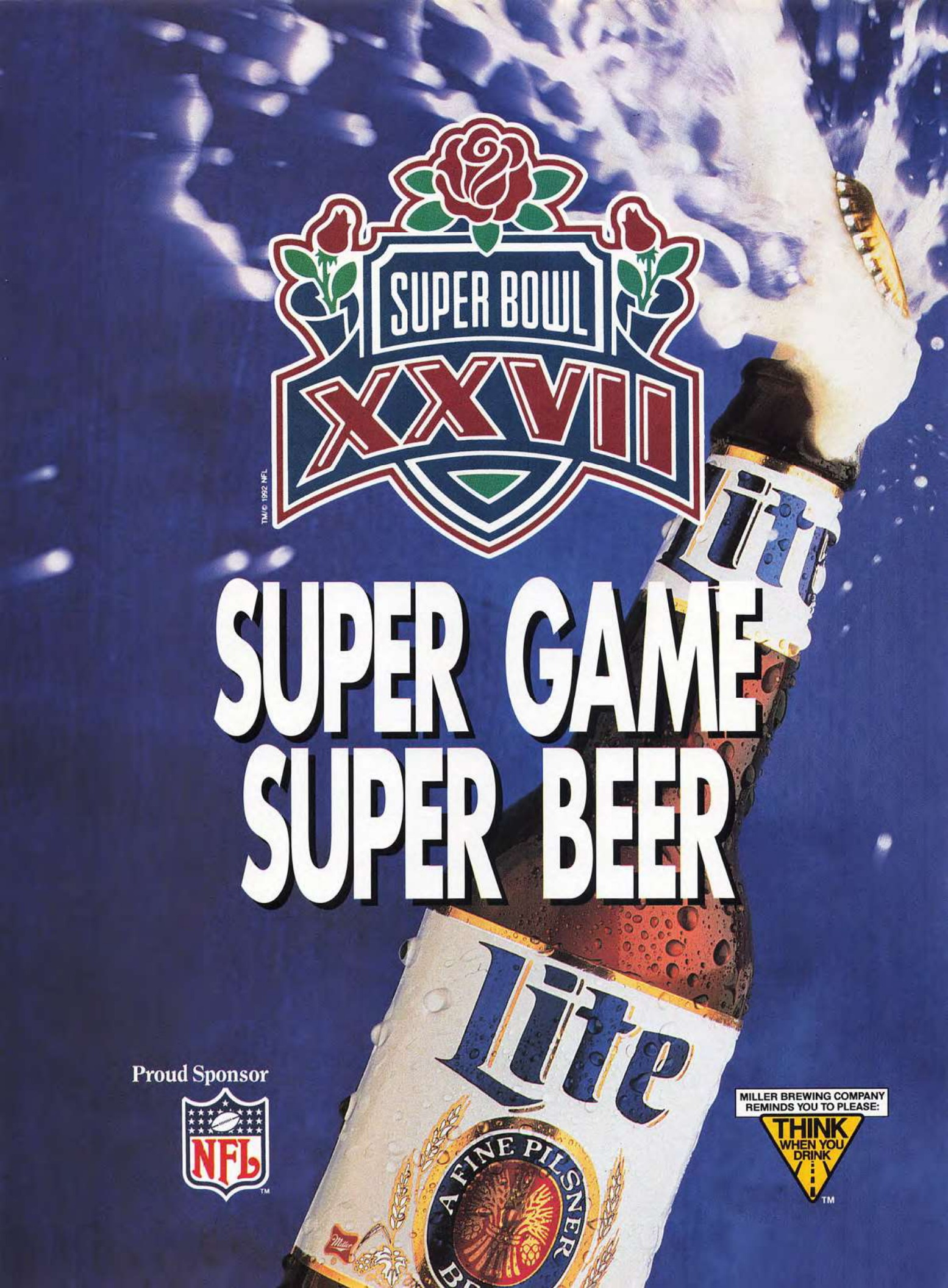
"Plus, winning all those games, all those Super Bowls, there was a lot of pressure to win. We had accomplished so much in ten years. In a way, I enjoyed the changes that would come—I became more and more important to the team as they relied on me. But after all those winning seasons, it was hard to go through it just for the fun of it.

"By the end of that game, I was exhausted. I do wish I had retired then. Four Super Bowls in six years...that would have been quite a record to leave with."

Bradshaw played four more years and didn't come close to the Super Bowl again. But it took another decade for some other quarterback (Joe Montana) to match Bradshaw's four Super Bowl rings.

—Jim Gigliotti

"We had accomplished so much in ten years. . .by the end of that game, I was exhausted. I do wish I had retired then. Four Super Bowls in six years. . . that would have been quite a record to leave with."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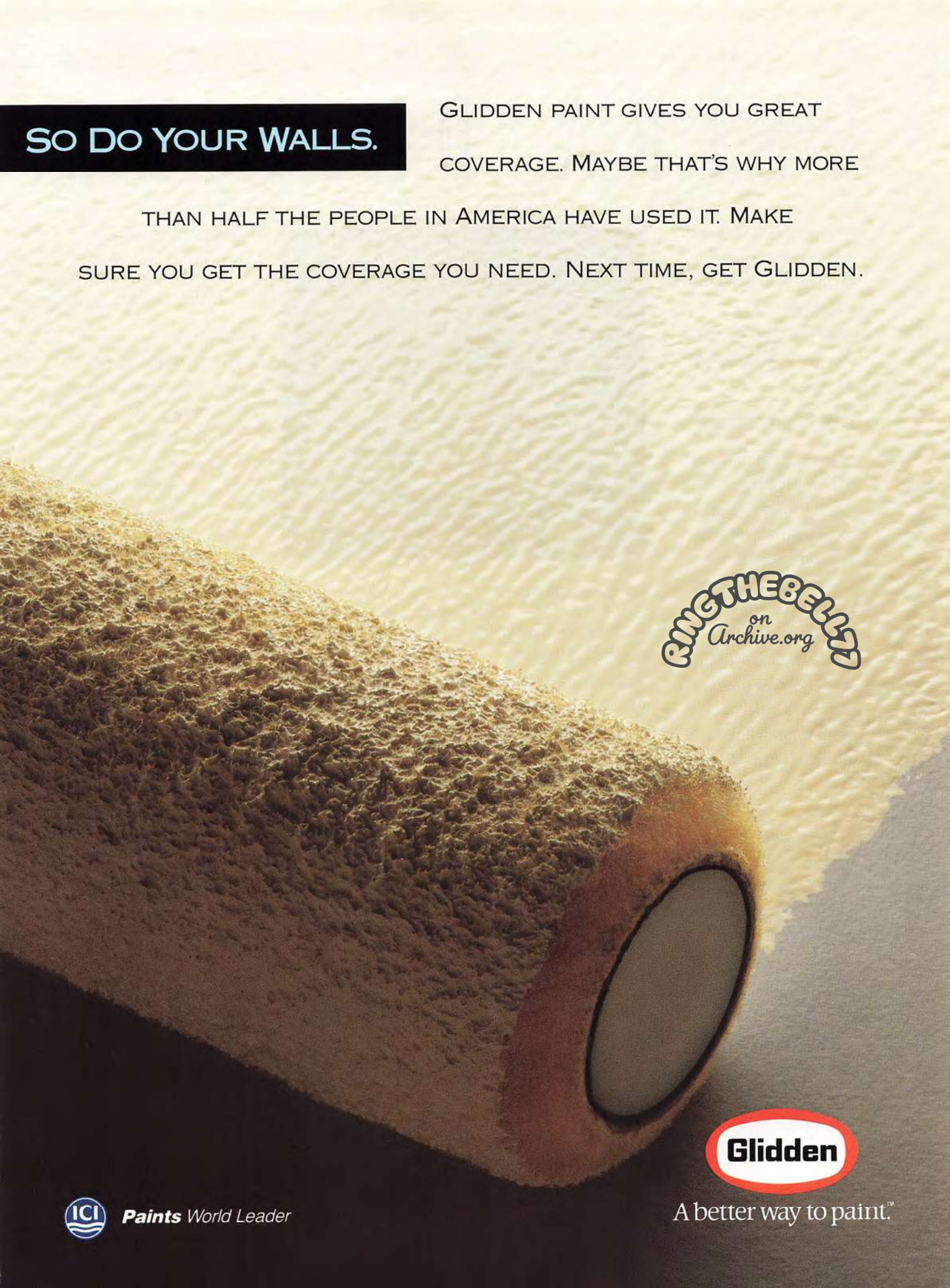
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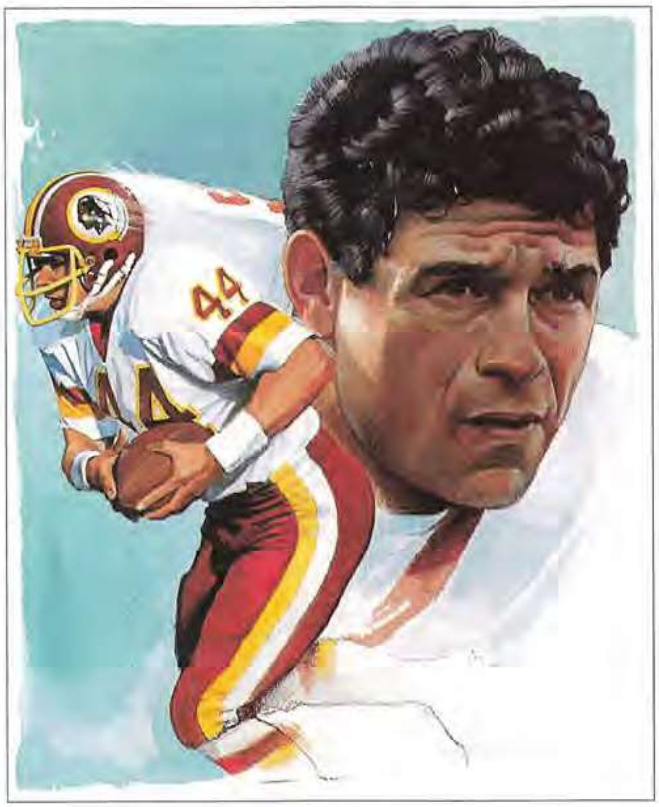
L.A. MEMORIES • SUPER BOWL XVII

Long after running back **John Riggins** had dominated the Redskins' 27-17 victory over the Dolphins in Super Bowl XVII, Washington quarterback Joe Theismann stayed in the locker

room talking to reporters.

"If we were still out there, we'd *still* be running Riggins left," Theismann said. "Look at the play-by-play and you'll see. Riggins off-tackle left, Riggins off-tackle left, then maybe a little Riggins off-tackle right, an occasional pass by me, then Riggins left, Riggins left, and once more Riggins left."



Theismann wasn't exaggerating. In the decisive fourth-quarter stretch of one of the most exciting Super Bowls, there it is: Riggins middle, Riggins right, Theismann pass (even that was a trick play involving a handoff to Riggins and a lateral back to the quarterback), Riggins left, Riggins left, Clarence Harmon middle, Riggins left, then Riggins five more times.

Riggins, Riggins, Riggins. And so at the most critical juncture of the third Super Bowl played in Pasadena, California's venerable Rose Bowl (the fifth game in the Los Angeles area), there wasn't much doubt about play selection for Washington.

The Redskins, trailing 17-13, faced a fourth-and-1 from the Dolphins' 43-yard line five minutes into the final quarter.

Miami called time out to replace its 3-4 defense with a goal-line unit that had eight men on the line.

"They knew it, you knew it, I knew it—everybody knew where the ball was going," Riggins says. "It was just a question of up the middle, to the right, or to the left."

This was the defining moment in Super Bowl XVII, and players of Riggins's stature don't let defining moments slip by without taking definite action.

For the 33-year-old Riggins, the moment was a long time coming.

"You know, I was really a layman for most of my years in the league," says Riggins, who began his career with the Jets in 1971, then joined the Redskins as a free agent in 1976. "Lady Luck just never did seem to want to sit too long with me."

He especially was let down by her fickleness in 1979. That year, Roger Staubach's short touchdown pass to Tony Hill in the final minute of the final regular-season game gave the Dallas Cowboys a stunning 35-34 victory over Riggins and the Redskins.

Washington, 10-5 at the time and on a roll, having won four of its last five games while averaging 33 points in the victories, seemed poised to make a run at Super Bowl XIV.

But the Redskins needed a victory to clinch the NFC Eastern Division title, and they could not protect a 34-21 lead late in the game. Staubach's heroics—combined with the Bears' improbable 36-point victory over the Cardinals the same day—left Washington on the short end of a point-differential tiebreaker.

"I thought we had a great chance to make it to the Super Bowl going into that game," says Riggins.

"You know what it's like?" lamented Theismann afterwards. "It's like when you fall in love. You fall hard when it's over."

Riggins fell hard.

"Losing that game really crushed my hopes," he says. "I sat out the next year and that was all part of it, really."

He came back in 1981—"bored and broke," by his own admission.

The Redskins stumbled out of the gate at 0-5 under new head coach Joe Gibbs that season, and finished 8-8. The next season was strike-shortened 1982, which further dampened Riggins's enthusiasm.

"I was really a layman for most of my years in the league. Lady Luck just never did seem to want to sit too long with me...[But] tonight [after his most-valuable-player performance in the Super Bowl victory], at least, I'm the king."

"We had a long break [nine weeks]," he says. "A lot of guys worked hard, but I wasn't conscientious. I said, 'Hey, we've got ourselves a vacation.' I didn't do anything.

"To tell you the truth, I wasn't sure I wanted to continue the season. I was ready to pack my bags and head for Kansas. Boy, what a mistake that would have been."

Washington entered the Super Bowl tournament with an NFC-best 8-1 record during the irregular season.

"You know, even as an athlete, you get used to just showing up at the office and punching in," Riggins says. "But this was a chance to do something I really wanted for a long time—to reach the Super Bowl. I was really focused on it."

Riggins gained 119 yards on 25 carries in a 31-7 rout of the Lions, then 185 yards on 37 attempts as the Redskins beat the Vikings 21-7.

Revenge against the Cowboys in the NFC Championship Game was sweet: 36 carries, 140 yards, 2 touchdowns, a 31-17 victory.

Riggins's rare combination of strength and speed was overpowering opponents.

"When the Big Guy has both hands on the ball, when it's short yardage and he's really barreling," says Redskins guard Russ Grimm, "I know I'd hate to have to face him on game days."

"One time we were in Detroit, and a defensive back named Luther Bradley came up and tried to hit John," Theismann says. "He hit him about a yard into the end zone, and all you saw was his helmet fly off. It started rolling toward the goal post, just sort of in slow motion, and Luther went down and I thought, 'My God, Riggins has taken his head off.'"

Washington's plan in the postseason was evident: Take the lead in the first half, then hand it over to the burly fullback to nurse the advantage in the second half. Against Dallas, Riggins carried on 12 of the Redskins' final 13 plays from scrimmage (the only exception was Theismann's kneel-down on the last snap).

Against the Dolphins in the Super Bowl, this was easier said than done. Miami entered the game with the league's top-rated defense, having allowed just 257 total yards per game entering the playoffs.

And a couple of big plays by the Dolphins threatened to put the game out of Washington's reach: David Woodley's 76-yard touchdown pass to Jimmy Cefalo midway through the first quarter, and Fulton Walker's record-setting 98-yard kickoff return late in the first half.

Those quick strikes helped Miami to its 17-13 advantage.

Late in the third quarter, a pass by Theismann from deep in his own territory was deflected in the air. It was about to settle into the hands of Miami defensive end Kim Bokamper for an easy touchdown until Theismann swatted it away.

"That play could have taken us out of the game," Riggins says. "But I don't think at that point we were in a lot of trouble. Or maybe we were just dumb enough not to know we were about to be out of the game, and just dumb enough not to know we were playing the Miami Dolphins."

Theismann's dramatic play kept the deficit at four points. A few minutes later, the game reached its climax.

Riggins, yes–but right, middle, or left?

The call went to the left. Washington tight end Clint Didier went in motion to the right, Dolphins cornerback Don McNeal followed him. Didier went back, McNeal followed—and slipped.

It was a fateful slip because when blocking back Otis Wonsley effectively sealed off the corner, McNeal was the only Miami player with a chance to stop Riggins. The first down was conceded.

"When I handed the ball off, I had no doubt we were going to get the first down," Theismann says.

But suddenly, Riggins was straight-arming McNeal and taking off down the sidelines on a 43-yard touchdown run.

Riggins says he's never seen an end-zone version of the play, or any replay that could tell him exactly what happened.

But Theismann had the perfect view.

"I knew John had the first down," he says, "so I had a sigh of relief. Then all of a sudden, I saw McNeal. And I could see John make contact, and McNeal just sort of slide down."

At that point, it was obvious the play was going to net more than a first down.

"Now I'm figuring, 'Geez, he's gonna get more yards,'" Theismann says. "And then he starts to turn up the sidelines and it's, 'He's gonna get a *lot* more yards.' Then, 'My God, he's gonna go in the end zone. Holy mackerel!' Then I tried to beat him to the end zone to jump all over him."

There still was 10:01 left to play, and the Dolphins trailed by just a field goal, but for all intents and purposes, the issue was decided.

Riggins applied the finishing touches after Miami went three plays and out by carrying 8 times on a subsequent 12-play touchdown drive. He finished with 38 carries for 166 yards.

"For tonight, at least, I'm the king," Riggins proclaimed afterwards.

A few weeks earlier, in the closing stages of the divisional playoff victory over the Vikings, Riggins took a regal bow before the RFK Stadium crowd. Two days before Super Bowl XVII, he arrived at owner Jack Kent Cooke's party in white tie, top hat, and tails.

Indeed, when it came to running the football, John Riggins was no layman. Lady Luck had christened him royalty.

—Jim Gigliotti

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Super Bowl
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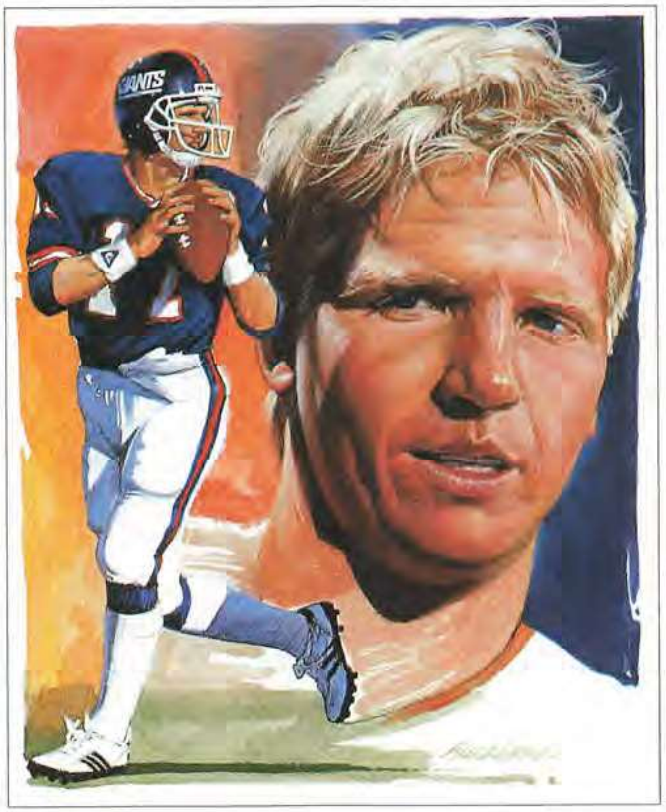
L.A. MEMORIES • SUPER BOWL XXI

It is a scenario worthy of Hollywood. A heralded young football player named **Phil Simms**, from a small town in Kentucky, earns his way to the bright lights of Broadway only to discover that New



York's golden streets have potholes, and danger lurks around every corner.

The blond-haired, blue-eyed quarterback overcomes angry mobs of opposing defenses, nagging injuries, and fire-breathing writers by relying on an easy-going but extremely determined spirit.

After persevering through various tests of courage, our hero comes to Hollywood (okay, Pasadena!) and rises to the pinnacle of professional football, putting together one of the greatest single-game performances in NFL history.

Only this scenario really happened. In Super Bowl XXI at the Rose Bowl, Simms completed 22 of 25 passes (a record 88 percent) for 268 yards and 3 touchdowns to lead the New York Giants to a 39-20 victory over the Denver Broncos.

"I remember hearing and reading a lot about [Denver quarterback] John Elway the week before the Super Bowl," Simms says. "But sitting on the bus going to practice one day, suddenly I didn't care. I thought, 'Good, let John have all the publicity! That's the way it should be.'

"One of our linemen, I think it was [center] Bart Oates said, 'Elway gets all the press, but you've been the hottest quarterback in the last seven or eight weeks of the season, especially in the playoffs.' I looked at him and said, 'Boy! You're right.' If you look back at our games before the Super Bowl, how we won them, and how I played, it was a pretty good assumption that I probably would play well in the Super Bowl.

"The mood [the week before Super Bowl XXI] was, in all honesty, very happy-go-lucky. The players were wild, especially at night. Going to the practice complex in the mornings, I'd have tears in my eyes laughing about the guys' stories. There was no way we could win. No one was getting any sleep, everybody was staying up all night."

A storm was brewing. The Giants had been building toward a Super Bowl crescendo. After winning only three games in 1983, they had finished 9-7 in 1984 and 10-6 in 1985. The Giants were dominant in 1986, bringing a 16-2 record and an 11-game winning streak into the Super Bowl. That season they had the second-best defense in the NFL and allowed only 3 points in the playoffs while scoring 66.

"I don't know how many times we went for a first down on fourth down that year, but we made almost all of 'em. And we just didn't have two or three tries, we went for it something like fourteen times—a lot of them were in very crucial situations."

In week 11 with the division lead on the line, Simms completed a 22-yard pass to Bobby Johnson on fourth-and-17 that enabled the Giants to kick the winning field goal in the closing seconds to beat Minnesota 22-20.

"The first week after the NFC Championship Game [the Giants defeated Washington 17-0] we got three days off and came back pretty loose. [Head coach Bill] Parcells blew his top on the first day back—'I knew I couldn't give you three days off!' So we went out and our practices were magnificent. Watching the films, it always was one good throw, catch, or block. Everything was perfect.

"Our routine didn't change the week before the Super Bowl, either. We had pizza on Friday—it wasn't as good as Jersey pizza—and Saturday morning the rookies had to buy doughnuts. We did everything we always did except we enjoyed it more."

While some may have wondered whether he had the right stuff to lead the Giants to a Super Bowl victory, Simms accepted the chal-

lenge. His percentage of passes intercepted (1.75) in the postseason is evidence. It is the second lowest career number, trailing only Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Bart Starr (1.41).

"There was no pressure on me to do things. In fact, Bill [Parcells] would go to practice every day and say, 'Hey Simms, I'm not looking for five-yard completions, I'm looking for *big* plays. We'll run it for five. If you're going to throw it, throw it! If they intercept it, don't worry about it.'

"I must have been doing well because I remember Parcells standing behind me at practice on Friday before the game and saying, 'Oh, you are ready! Oh, you are ready!' I had some uncertainty, but I remember reading quotes from my teammates. They let it out of the bag that we were going to come out throwing, and they also felt I would have a good game. The Broncos were getting New York papers, and our players were giving away the game plan.

"I always rode to the the game with [tackle] Karl Nelson, [tackle] Brad Benson, and [guard] Chris Godfrey. On Sunday, we got a cab to the Rose Bowl. As we drove to the stadium, Benson said, 'Phil, how are you going to do today?' I didn't hesitate.

"I said, 'Brad I'm going to eat them [the Denver Broncos] up today if you guys hold them out. Because I've got it—I'm going to rip them apart.' I never talk like that, but I really meant it. I thought we physically were superior to them in every aspect. The taxi driver looked at us as if we were crazy."

It could not have been a more perfect winter day in southern California. The temperature was 76, winds were blowing about three miles per hour from the west, and the sun shone brightly in a cloudless sky.

"The only time I really got extremely nervous was when we ran out onto the field for the game. The excitement was overwhelming and suffocating. I remember thinking, this is unbelievable! People say what they want, but the births of my children weren't that exciting. I'm not going to lie—running on the field was the most exciting moment in my life. It never will be duplicated.

"The conditions—the field and the balls—were perfect. I remember thinking in the second quarter, 'I can go [with a pass] wherever I want today. If my guys get even a little open, I can hit them.'"

> ***"[Brad] Benson said to me, 'Phil, how are you going to do today?' I didn't hesitate. I said, 'Brad, I'm going to eat them up today if you guys hold them out. Because I've got it—I'm going to rip them apart.' I never talk like that, but I really meant it."***

The Giants started slowly, and the Broncos held a 10-9 halftime lead. Denver's lead could have been larger, but kicker Rich Karlis missed two field-goal attempts.

"We weren't a fired-up team at halftime. I can't even remember what we talked about with the coaches. Parcells just gave his usual halftime speech—'Men, there are thirty minutes left.' That was it. Everyone says that Parcells made the greatest halftime adjustments, and I just laugh.

"When I completed the flea-flicker [44 yards to wide receiver Phil McConkey late in the third quarter], I knew the game was over. At that time the score was 19-10 [in the Giants' favor], and we had just taken the ball back. I completed a pass [17 yards to Lionel Manuel] that netted a big first down. On second-and-six, Parcells called the flea-flicker, and I thought, 'Oh, this is gone.' I knew it would work. I have thrown that pass about eight times in my career, and I've hit it all eight times—in the same spot. I knew McConkey would be wide open. He caught it and was tackled at Denver's one. That was it. The Broncos were not going to score three times on our defense."

Simms smiles. "I rode back to the hotel in a taxi with Lawrence Taylor. We both had missed the bus because we were doing interviews after the game. We had a great time talking in that cab.

"When I got back to the hotel, I waited for my family, and I ordered food for the room. We had planned to have a little celebration, but nobody made it back for hours. We went to the team party, but there were too many people. I signed a few autographs, and left about four in the morning. Then it was time for interviews on the network morning shows for the East Coast. When that was over, McConkey and I went to breakfast at a small pancake house.

"I never went to bed, never laid down. I went to a press conference with Parcells, and after that we were on the plane to come home. That night at home, me and my wife [Diana] were so excited, we still couldn't sleep. I remember lying down at night, watching TV, talking with her. We still were awake when the sun rose."

The unassuming Simms may not have sought stardom, but stardom sought him.

"I was the first MVP to say, 'I'm going to Disneyland!' after a Super Bowl. It was going to be either me or Elway no matter who won the MVP. Leading up to the game, I kept saying 'no' to the idea, but my agent kept saying 'You've got to do it.' I'm an old-fashioned person and I said, 'Look, it's not right to be talking about things like this [before a big game].'

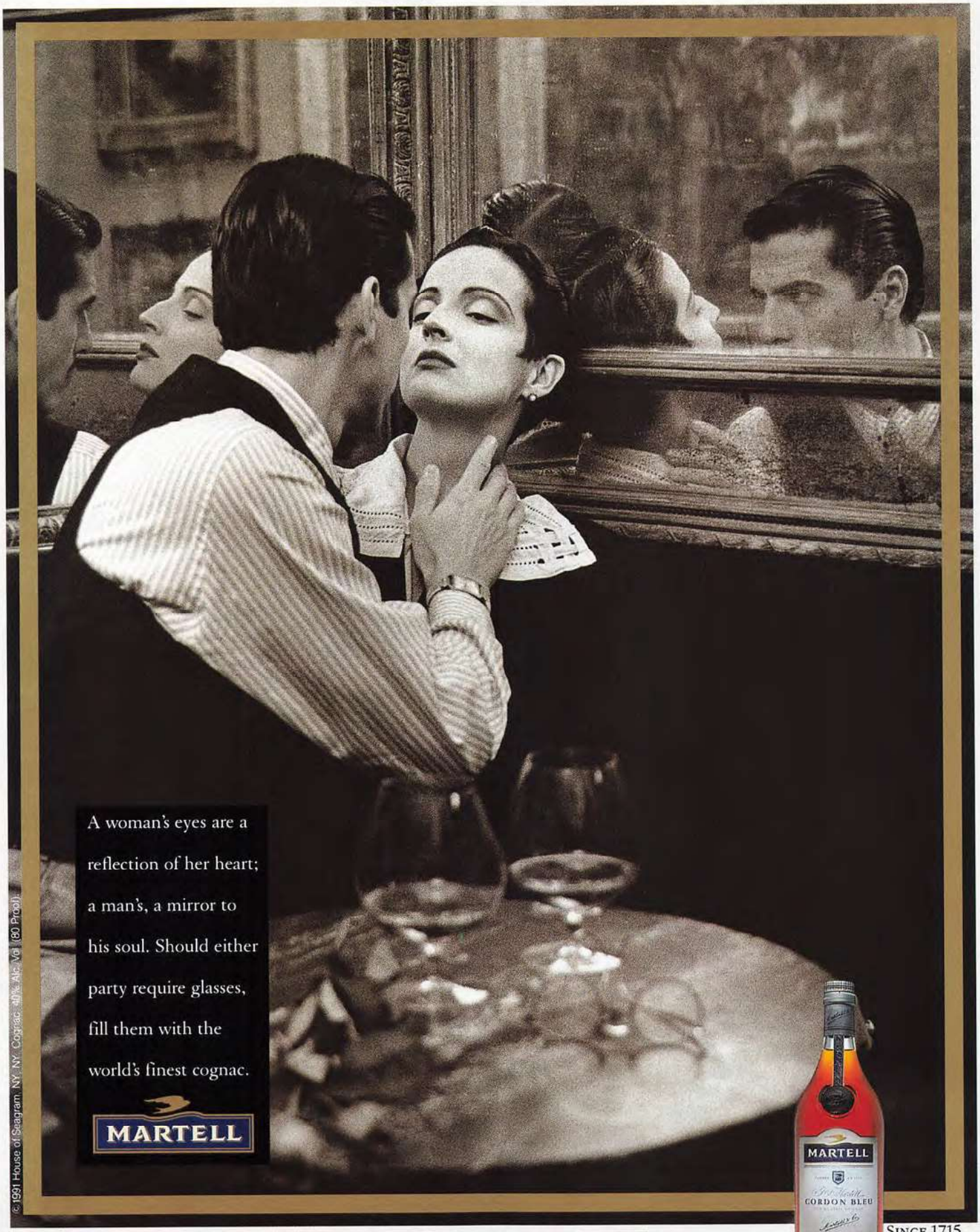
"When we went to another hotel on Friday [before the game] I felt more relaxed, and I said, 'Look, I'll do the damned thing—if we win, I'll say it.' They [representatives from Disney] came to my hotel room immediately. I forgot about it [saying the phrase] until a minute before the game ended.

"When all was said and done, I was glad I did it because it was unique. The commercial came out the next day. Nobody wanted to talk with me about the game—just about the commercial.

"Later, I watched the film from the coaches' standpoint, and I have to tell you I didn't do anything wrong. We threw to the right guy and did the right thing with the ball—on every play. I usually don't do that."

—Brian Peterson

THE ART OF EYE CONTACT.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INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

SCORING

Most Points, Career

24 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games (4-td)
Roger Craig, San Francisco, 3 games (4-td)
Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 2 games (4-td)
22 Ray Wersching, San Francisco, 2 games (7-pat, 5-fg)

Most Points, Game

18 Roger Craig, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX (3-td)
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (3-td)
15 Don Chandler, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II (3-pat, 4-fg)

Most Touchdowns, Career

4 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games (4-r)
Roger Craig, San Francisco, 3 games (2-r, 2-p)
Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 2 games (4-p)
3 John Stallworth, Pittsburgh, 4 games (3-p)
Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh, 4 games (3-p)
Cliff Branch, Oakland-L.A. Raiders, 3 games (3-p)

Most Touchdowns, Game

3 Roger Craig, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX (1-r, 2-p)
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (3-p)
2 By many players

Most Field Goals, Career

5 Ray Wersching, San Francisco, 2 games (5 att)
4 Don Chandler, Green Bay, 2 games (4 att)
Jim Turner, N.Y. Jets-Denver, 2 games (6 att)
Uwe von Schamann, Miami, 2 games (4 att)

Most Field Goals, Game

4 Don Chandler, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II
Ray Wersching, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XVI
3 By six players

Longest Field Goal

48 Jan Stenerud, Kansas City vs. Minnesota, IV
Rich Karlis, Denver vs. N.Y. Giants, XXI
47 Jim Turner, Denver vs. Dallas, XII

RUSHING

Most Attempts, Career

101 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
64 John Riggins, Washington, 2 games

Most Attempts, Game

38 John Riggins, Washington vs. Miami, XVII
34 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, VIII

Most Yards Gained, Career

354 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
297 Larry Csonka, Miami, 3 games

Most Yards Gained, Game

204 Timmy Smith, Washington vs. Denver, XXII
191 Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII

Longest Run From Scrimmage

74 Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII (TD)
58 Tom Matte, Baltimore vs. N.Y. Jets, III
Timmy Smith, Washington vs. Denver, XXII (TD)

Most Touchdowns, Career

4 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
2 By many players

Most Touchdowns, Game

2 By nine players

PASSING

Most Passes Attempted, Career

122 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games
101 John Elway, Denver, 3 games

Most Passes Attempted, Game

58 Jim Kelly, Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI
50 Dan Marino, Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX

Most Passes Completed, Career

83 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games
61 Roger Staubach, Dallas, 4 games

Most Passes Completed, Game

29 Dan Marino, Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
28 Jim Kelly, Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI

Most Yards Gained, Career

1,142 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games
932 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh, 4 games

Most Yards Gained, Game

357 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
340 Doug Williams, Washington vs. Denver, XXII

Longest Pass Completion

80 Jim Plunkett (to King), Oakland vs. Philadelphia, XV (TD)
Doug Williams (to Sanders), Washington vs. Denver, XXII (TD)
76 David Woodley (to Cefalo), Miami vs. Washington, XVII (TD)

Most Touchdown Passes, Career

11 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games
9 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh, 4 games

Most Touchdown Passes, Game

5 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV
4 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XIII
Doug Williams, Washington vs. Denver, XXII

Most Attempts, Without Interception, Game

36 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
35 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Most Passes Had Intercepted, Career

7 Craig Morton, Dallas-Denver, 2 games
6 Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota, 3 games
John Elway, Denver, 3 games

Most Passes Had Intercepted, Game

4 Craig Morton, Denver vs. Dallas, XII
Jim Kelly, Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI
3 By eight players

RECEPTIONS

Most Receptions, Career

20 Roger Craig, San Francisco, 3 games
18 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 2 games

Most Receptions, Game

11 Dan Ross, Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, XVI
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
10 Tony Nathan, Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX

Most Yards Gained, Career

364 Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh, 4 games
363 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 2 games

Most Yards Gained, Game

215 Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
193 Ricky Sanders, Washington vs. Denver, XXII

Longest Reception

80 Kenny King (from Plunkett), Oakland vs. Philadelphia, XV (TD)
Ricky Sanders (from Williams), Washington vs. Denver, XXII (TD)
76 Jimmy Cefalo (from Woodley), Miami vs. Washington, XVII (TD)

Most Touchdowns, Career

4 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 2 games
3 John Stallworth, Pittsburgh, 4 games
Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh, 4 games
Cliff Branch, Oakland-L.A. Raiders, 3 games

Most Touchdowns, Game

3 Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV
2 By seven players

INTERCEPTIONS BY

Most Interceptions By, Career

3 Chuck Howley, Dallas, 2 games
Rod Martin, Oakland-L.A. Raiders, 2 games
2 By seven players

Most Interceptions By, Game

3 Rod Martin, Oakland vs. Philadelphia, XV
2 By five players

Most Yards Gained, Career

75 Willie Brown, Oakland, 2 games
63 Chuck Howley, Dallas, 2 games
Jake Scott, Miami, 3 games

Most Yards Gained, Game

75 Willie Brown, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI
63 Jake Scott, Miami vs. Washington, VII

Longest Return

75 Willie Brown, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI (TD)
60 Herb Adderley, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II (TD)

Most Touchdowns, Game

1 Herb Adderley, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II
Willie Brown, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI
Jack Squirek, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII
Reggie Phillips, Chicago vs. New England, XX

PUNTING

Most Punts, Career

17 Mike Eischeid, Oakland-Minnesota, 3 games
15 Larry Seiple, Miami, 3 games
Mike Horan, Denver, 3 games

Most Punts, Game

9 Ron Widby, Dallas vs. Baltimore, V
7 By eight players

Longest Punt

63 Lee Johnson, Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, XXIII
62 Rich Camarillo, New England vs Chicago, XX

Highest Average, Punting, Career (10 punts)

46.5 Jerrel Wilson, Kansas City, 2 games (11-511)
41.9 Ray Guy, Oakland-L.A. Raiders, 3 games (14-587)

Highest Average, Punting, Game (4 punts)

48.5 Jerrel Wilson, Kansas City vs. Minnesota, IV (4-194)
46.3 Jim Miller, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XVI (4-185)

PUNT RETURNS

Most Punt Returns, Career

6 Willie Wood, Green Bay, 2 games
Jake Scott, Miami, 3 games
Theo Bell, Pittsburgh, 2 games
Mike Nelms, Washington, 1 game
John Taylor, San Francisco, 2 games
5 Dana McLemore, San Francisco, 1 game

Most Punt Returns, Game

6 Mike Nelms, Washington vs. Miami, XVII
5 Willie Wood, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II
Dana McLemore, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Most Fair Catches, Game

3 Ron Gardin, Baltimore vs. Dallas, V
Golden Richards, Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, X
Greg Pruitt, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII
Al Edwards, Buffalo vs. N.Y. Giants, XXV
David Meggett, N.Y. Giants vs. Buffalo, XXV

Most Yards Gained, Career

94 John Taylor, San Francisco, 2 games
52 Mike Nelms, Washington, 1 game

Most Yards Gained, Game

56 John Taylor, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
52 Mike Nelms, Washington vs. Miami, XVII

Longest Return

45 John Taylor, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
34 Darrell Green, Washington vs. L.A. Raiders, XVIII

Highest Average, Career (4 returns)

15.7 John Taylor, San Francisco, 2 games (6-94)
10.8 Neal Colzie, Oakland, 1 game (4-43)

Highest Average, Game (3 returns)

18.7 John Taylor, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII (3-56)
12.7 John Taylor, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (3-38)

KICKOFF RETURNS

Most Kickoff Returns, Career

10 Ken Bell, Denver, 3 games
8 Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh, 2 games
Fulton Walker, Miami, 2 games

Most Kickoff Returns, Game

7 Stephen Starring, New England vs. Chicago, XX
6 Darren Carrington, Denver vs. San Francisco, XXIV

Most Yards Gained, Career

283 Fulton Walker, Miami, 2 games
207 Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh, 2 games

Most Yards Gained, Game

190 Fulton Walker, Miami vs. Washington, XVII
162 Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV

Longest Return

98 Fulton Walker, Miami vs. Washington, XVII (TD)
93 Stanford Jennings, Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, XXIII (TD)

Highest Average, Career (4 returns)

35.4 Fulton Walker, Miami, 2 games (8-283)
25.9 Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh, 2 games (8-207)

Highest Average, Game (3 returns)

47.5 Fulton Walker, Miami vs. Washington, XVII (4-190)
32.4 Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV (5-162)

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TEAM RECORDS

SCORING

Most Points, Game

55 San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV
46 Chicago vs. New England, XX

Fewest Points, Game

3 Miami vs. Dallas, VI
6 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX

Most Points, Both Teams, Game

66 Pittsburgh (35) vs. Dallas (31), XIII
65 San Francisco (55) vs. Denver (10), XXIV

Fewest Points, Both Teams, Game

21 Washington (7) vs. Miami (14), VII
22 Minnesota (6) vs. Pittsburgh (16), IX

Largest Margin of Victory, Game

45 San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (55-10)
36 Chicago vs. New England, XX (46-10)

Most Points, Each Half

1st: 35 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
2nd: 30 New York Giants vs. Denver, XXI

Fewest Points, Both Teams, Each Half

1st: 2 Minnesota (0) vs. Pittsburgh (2), IX
2nd: 7 Miami (0) vs. Washington (7), VII
Denver (0) vs. Washington (7), XXII

FIRST DOWNS

Most First Downs, Game

31 San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX
28 San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV

Fewest First Downs, Game

9 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX
Miami vs. Washington, XVII
10 Dallas vs. Baltimore, V
Miami vs. Dallas, VI

Most First Downs, Both Teams, Game

50 San Francisco (31) vs. Miami (19), XIX
49 Buffalo (25) vs. Washington (24), XXVI

Fewest First Downs, Both Teams, Game

24 Dallas (10) vs. Baltimore (14), V
26 Minnesota (9) vs. Pittsburgh (17), IX

TOTAL YARDS

Most Yards Gained, Game

602 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
537 San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Fewest Yards Gained, Game

119 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX
123 New England vs. Chicago, XX

Most Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game

929 Washington (602) vs. Denver (327), XXII
851 San Francisco (537) vs. Miami (314), XIX

Fewest Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game

452 Minnesota (119) vs. Pittsburgh (333), IX
481 Washington (228) vs. Miami (253), VII
Denver (156) vs. Dallas (325), XII

RUSHING

Most Attempts, Game

57 Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX
53 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Fewest Attempts, Game

9 Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
11 New England vs. Chicago, XX

Most Attempts, Both Teams, Game

81 Washington (52) vs. Miami (29), XVII
78 Pittsburgh (57) vs. Minnesota (21), IX
Oakland (52) vs. Minnesota (26), XI

Fewest Attempts, Both Teams, Game

49 Miami (9) vs. San Francisco (40), XIX
53 Kansas City (19) vs. Green Bay (34), I

Most Yards Gained, Game

280 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
276 Washington vs. Miami, XVII

Fewest Yards Gained, Game

7 New England vs. Chicago, XX
17 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX

Most Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game

377 Washington (280) vs. Denver (97), XXII
372 Washington (276) vs. Miami (96), XVII

Fewest Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game

168 Buffalo (43) vs. Washington (125), XXVI
171 Baltimore (69) vs. Dallas (102), V

PASSING

Most Passes Attempted, Game

59 Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI
50 Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX

Fewest Passes Attempted, Game

7 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII
11 Miami vs. Washington, VII

Most Passes Attempted, Both Teams, Game

92 Buffalo (59) vs. Washington (33), XXVI
85 Miami (50) vs. San Francisco (35), XIX

Fewest Passes Attempted, Both Teams, Game

35 Miami (7) vs. Minnesota (28), VIII
39 Miami (11) vs. Washington (28), VII

Most Passes Completed, Game

29 Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI
26 Denver vs. New York Giants, XXI

Fewest Passes Completed, Game

4 Miami vs. Washington, XVII
6 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Most Passes Completed, Both Teams, Game

53 Miami (29) vs. San Francisco (24), XIX
48 Denver (26) vs. New York Giants (22), XXI

Fewest Passes Completed, Both Teams, Game

19 Miami (4) vs. Washington (15), XVII
20 Pittsburgh (9) vs. Minnesota (11), IX

Most Yards Gained, Game

341 San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
326 San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Fewest Yards Gained, Game

35 Denver vs. Dallas, XII
63 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Most Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game

615 San Francisco (326) vs. Miami (289), XIX
583 Denver (320) vs. New York Giants (263), XXI

Fewest Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game

156 Miami (69) vs. Washington (87), VII
186 Pittsburgh (84) vs. Minnesota (102), IX

Most Times Sacked, Game

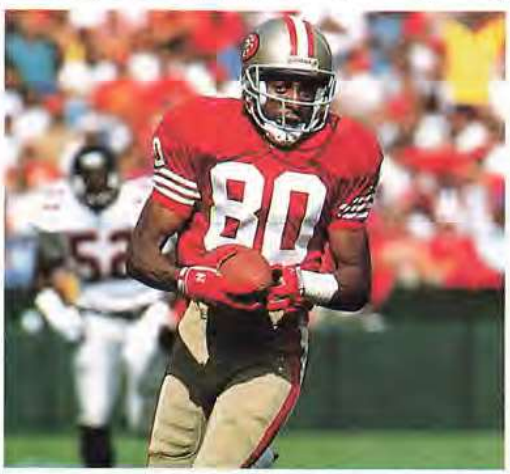
7 Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, X
New England vs. Chicago, XX
6 Kansas City vs. Green Bay, I
Washington vs. Los Angeles Raiders, XVIII
Denver vs. San Francisco, XXIV

CAREER PASSING LEADERS
(minimum 40 attempts)

Player, Team	Games	Att.	Comp.	Pct. Comp.	Yds.	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Long	Int.	Pct. Int.	Rating Points
Joe Montana, San Francisco	4	122	83	68.0	1142	9.36	11	9.0	44	0	0.0	127.8
Jim Plunkett, Oakland-L.A.Raiders	2	46	29	63.0	433	9.41	4	8.7	80t	0	0.0	122.8
Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh	4	84	49	58.3	932	11.10	9	10.7	75t	4	4.8	112.8
Bart Starr, Green Bay	2	47	29	61.7	452	9.62	3	6.4	62t	1	2.1	106.0
Roger Staubach, Dallas	4	98	61	62.2	734	7.49	8	8.2	45t	4	4.1	95.4
Len Dawson, Kansas City	2	44	28	63.6	353	8.02	2	4.5	46t	2	4.5	84.8
Bob Griese, Miami	3	41	26	63.4	295	7.20	1	2.4	28t	2	4.9	72.7
Dan Marino, Miami	1	50	29	58.0	318	6.36	1	2.0	30	2	4.0	66.9
Jim Kelly, Buffalo	2	88	46	52.3	487	5.53	2	2.3	61	4	4.5	57.3
Joe Theismann, Washington	2	58	31	53.4	386	6.66	2	3.4	60	4	6.9	57.1
John Elway, Denver	3	101	46	45.5	669	6.62	2	1.9	56t	6	5.9	49.5
Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota	3	89	46	51.7	489	5.49	1	1.1	30	6	6.7	43.7

Jim Kelly

Allen Dean Steele



Jerry Rice has 18 catches in just two Super Bowls.

George Rose

CAREER RUSHING LEADERS

Player, Team	Games	Yards	Attempts	Avg.	Long	TD
Franco Harris, Pittsburgh	4	354	101	3.5	25	4
Larry Csonka, Miami	3	297	57	5.2	49	2
John Riggins, Washington	2	230	64	3.6	43t	2
Timmy Smith, Washington	1	204	22	9.3	58t	2
Roger Craig, San Francisco	3	198	52	3.8	18	2
Marcus Allen, L.A.Raiders	1	191	20	9.6	74t	2
Tony Dorsett, Dallas	2	162	31	5.2	29	1
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo	2	148	25	5.9	31t	2
Mark van Eeghen, Oakland	2	148	36	4.1	11	0
Rocky Bleier, Pittsburgh	4	144	44	3.3	18	0
Walt Garrison, Dallas	2	139	26	5.3	19	0

CAREER RECEIVING LEADERS

Player, Team	Games	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Roger Craig, San Francisco	3	20	212	10.6	40	2
Jerry Rice, San Francisco	2	18	363	20.2	44	4
Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh	4	16	364	22.8	64t	3
Chuck Foreman, Minnesota	3	15	139	9.3	26	0
Cliff Branch, Oakland-L.A. Raiders	3	14	181	12.9	50	3
Andre Reed, Buffalo	2	13	96	7.4	20	0
Preston Pearson, Balt.-Pitt.-Dall.	5	12	105	8.8	14	0
John Stallworth, Pittsburgh	4	11	268	24.4	75t	3
Dan Ross, Cincinnati	1	11	104	9.5	16	2
Ricky Sanders, Washington	2	10	234	23.4	80t	2
Gary Clark, Washington	2	10	169	16.9	34	2
Otis Taylor, Kansas City	2	10	138	13.8	46t	1
Dwight Clark, San Francisco	2	10	122	12.2	33	0
Tony Nathan, Miami	1	10	83	8.3	25	0

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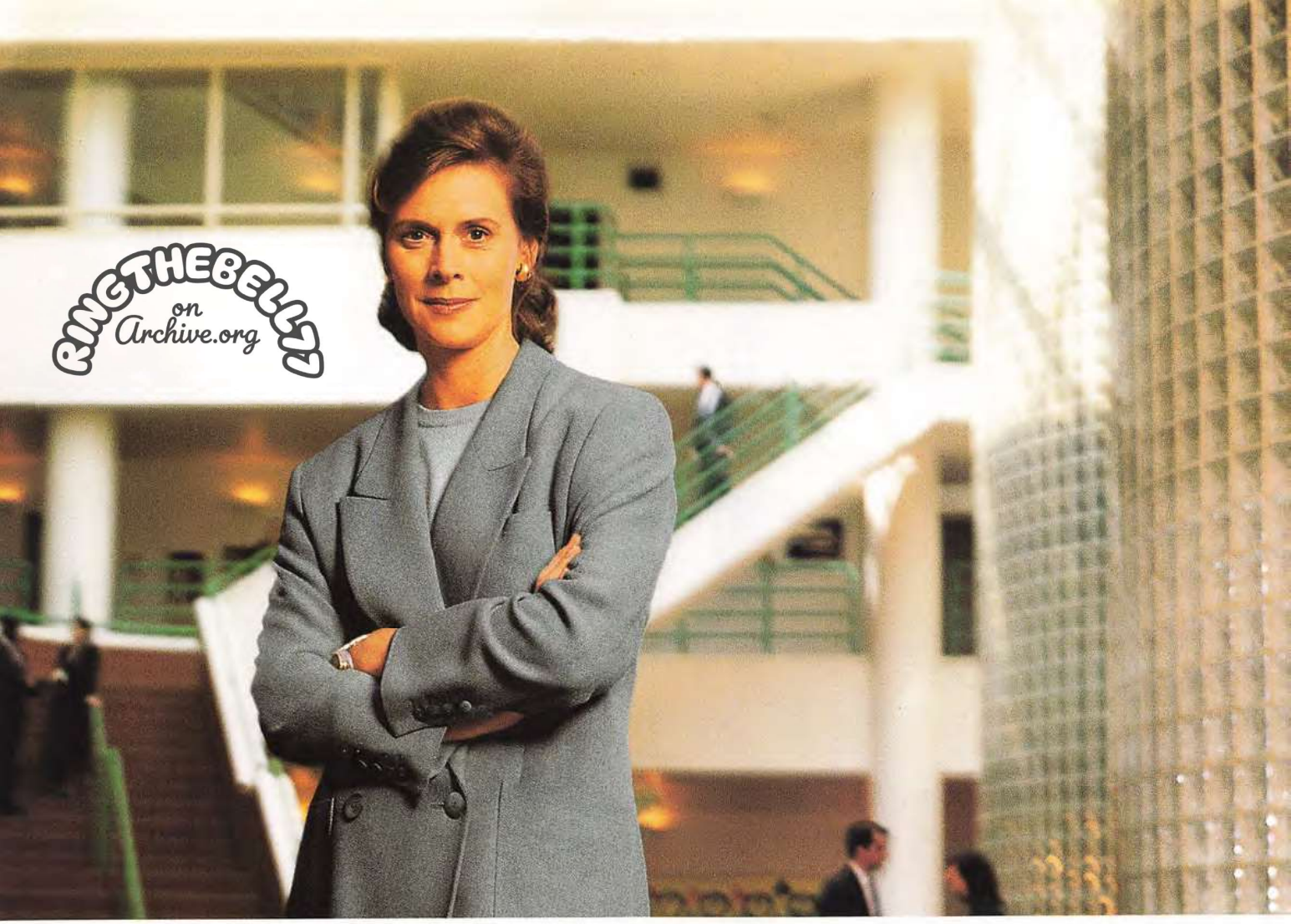

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OFFICIAL SIGNALS

Touchdown, Field Goal, or Successful Try

Safety

Time Out

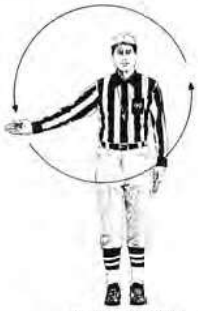
Dead Ball or Neutral Zone Established, Crowd Noise

First Down

Personal Foul

Ball Illegally Touched, Kicked, or Batted

Delay of Game



No Time Out or Time in With Whistle

Offside or Encroaching

Holding

Penalty Refused, Incomplete Pass, Play Over, or Missed Field Goal

Ineligible Receiver or Ineligible Member of Kicking Team Downfield

Illegal Motion at Snap

Crawling, Interlocking Interference, Pushing, or Helping Runner

Unsportsmanlike Conduct Chop Blocks

Tripping

Illegal Crackback

Illegal Cut or Blocking Below the Waist

Intentional Grounding of Pass

Touching a Forward Pass or Scrimmage Kick

Player Disqualified

Illegal Contact

False Start, Illegal Shift, Illegal Formation, or Kickoff or Safety Kick Out of Bounds

Illegal Use of Hands, Arms, or Body

Pass Juggled Inbounds, and Caught Out of Bounds

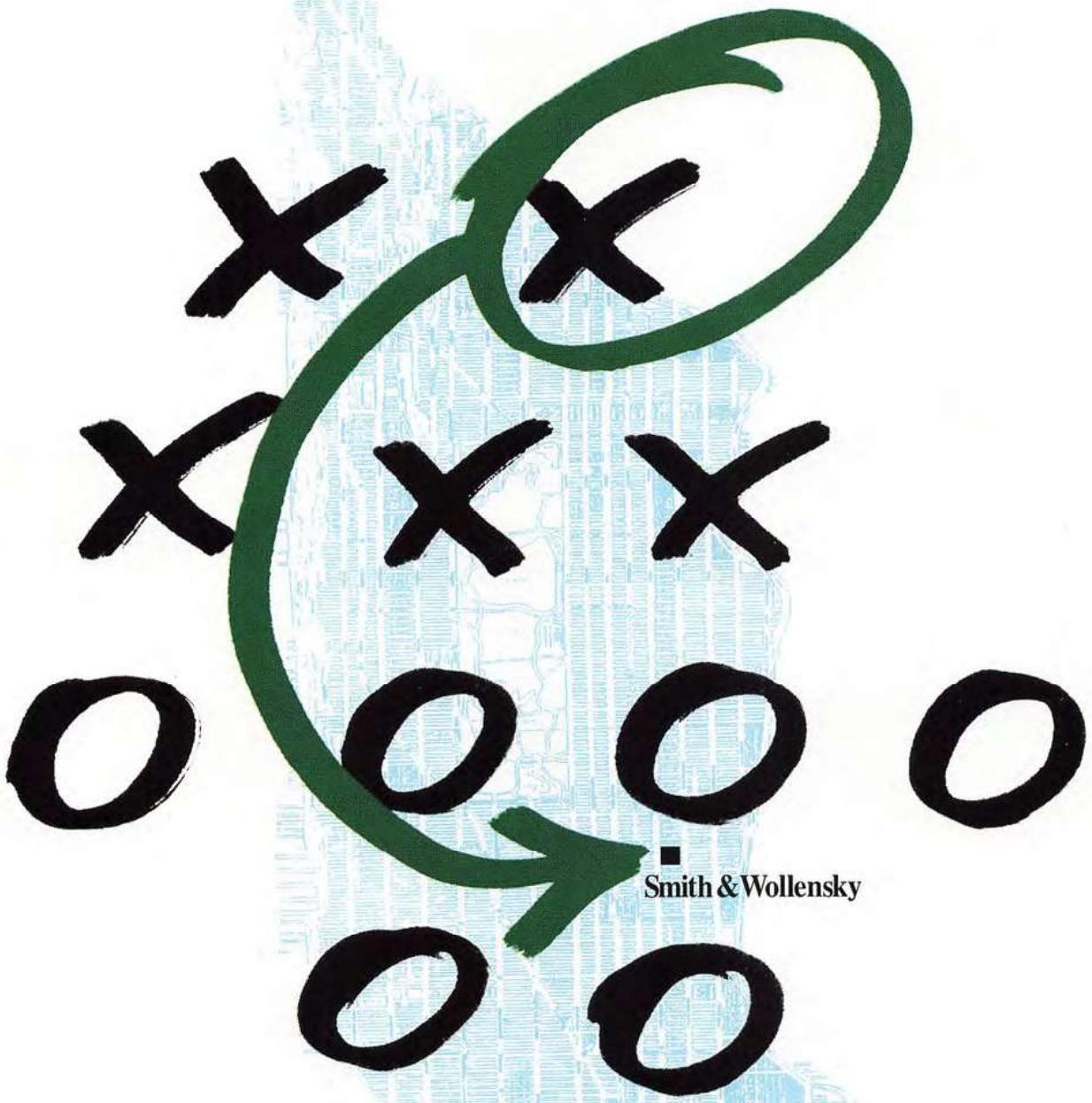
Illegal Forward Pass

Loss of Down

Invalid Fair Catch Signal

Uncatchable Forward Pass

Interference With Forward Pass or Fair Catch



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GTE: Telecommunications Consultant to the NFL and Super Bowl XXVII

SUPER BOWL Talkers

A Super Bowl Salute to the Mouths That Roared

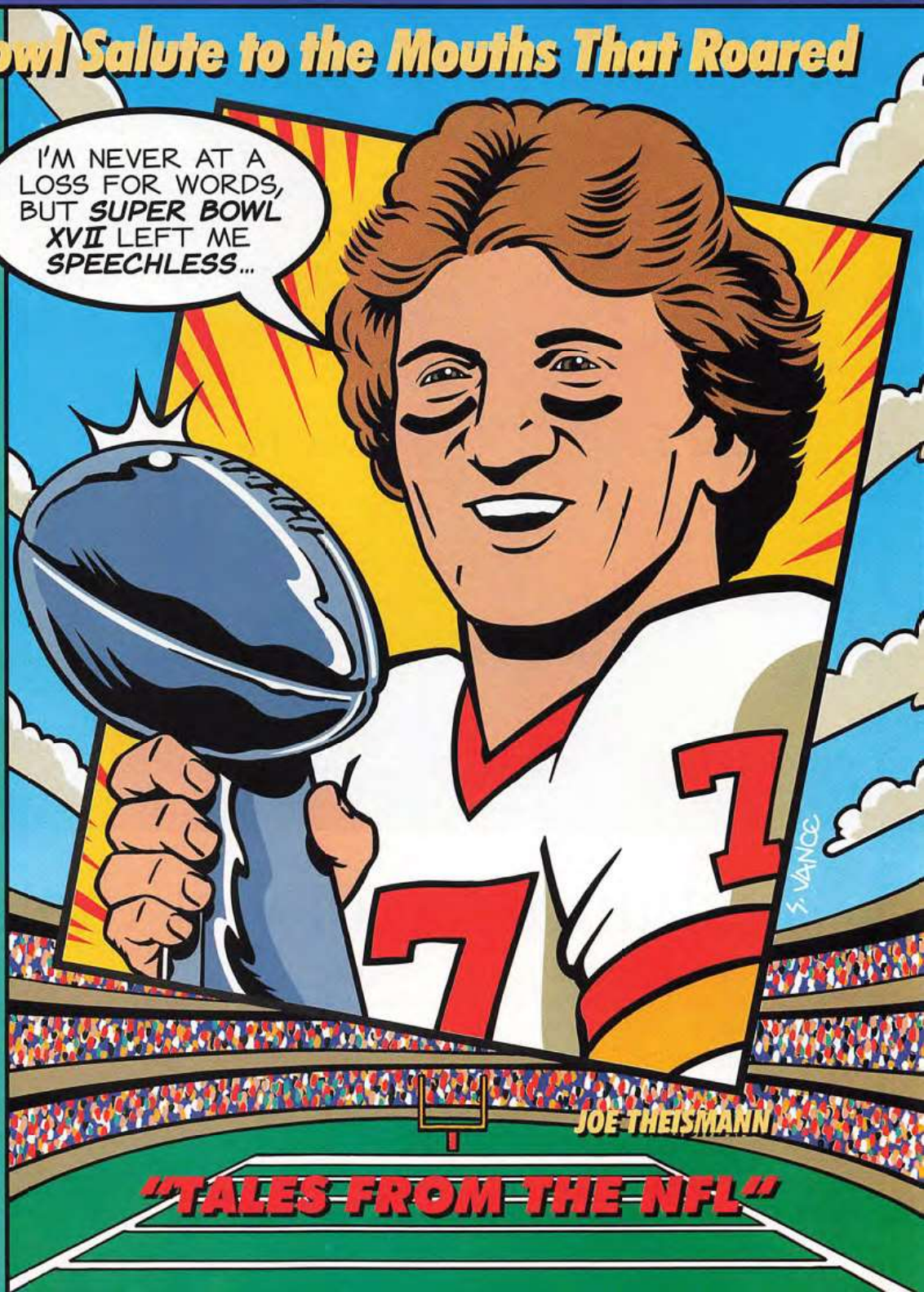
FEATURING

THE HAMMER

BROADWAY JOE

HOLLYWOOD

GTE



Just another day at the office.

While the NFL plays, GTE works. Behind the scenes, GTE equipment and services power the sport of pro football on the field during the season, and the business of pro football off the field year-round. In NFL club offices and the League office, on draft day and Super Sunday, GTE earns its designation as Telecommunications Consultant to the NFL. Because GTE knows that no matter where your office may be, business is more than a game.

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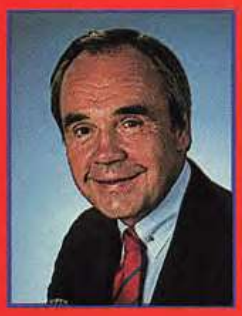
GTE: TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT TO THE NFL™ AND SUPER BOWL XXVII™

THE SUPER BOWL: WHERE TALK AND ACTION MEET

by Dick Enberg



To say the Super Bowl inspires lots of talk is an understatement. Players and coaches talk about it as soon as training camps open in the summer. Fans talk about it with increasing anticipation as playoff races heat up during the season. And the media...well, the media thrive on Super Bowl speculation, excitement, and hoopla.

I know I've done my share of Super Bowl talking. I've had the privilege of doing the play-by-plays on four Super Bowl games from the broadcast booth for NBC. Today's game will be my fifth at the mike. And during those memorable occasions, as well as in all my other seasons of sports telecasting, I've heard some unforgettable things said in watching and covering the Super Bowl. They run the gamut from funny to outrageous, from insightful to poignant, from boastful to touching, I'm always amazed at what the intensity and drama of being in the Super Bowl compels people to say.

Maybe the most famous of all Super Bowl talkers was New York Jets quarterback Joe Namath, who guaranteed— and then delivered— victory over the heavily favored Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III. But there have been quite a few other instances of Super Bowl participants saying things worth remembering. The best of them are included in this special GTE insert. There's also a Super Bowl Quote Quiz that tests your memory of renowned Super Bowl talkers and the things they said that have added so much spice to the NFL's biggest game.

THE TALK OF THE NFL

GTE made the most of its role as Telecommunications Consultant to the NFL with this season's "Talk of the NFL" promotion. It featured a Super Bowl XXVII sweepstakes and a "Talk of the NFL" celebrity phone line with Houston Oilers quarterback Warren Moon as spokesperson. Moon also appeared, with NBC sportscaster Dick Enberg, in a series of GTE television commercials, one of which will air during today's Super Bowl telecast.

SF
M
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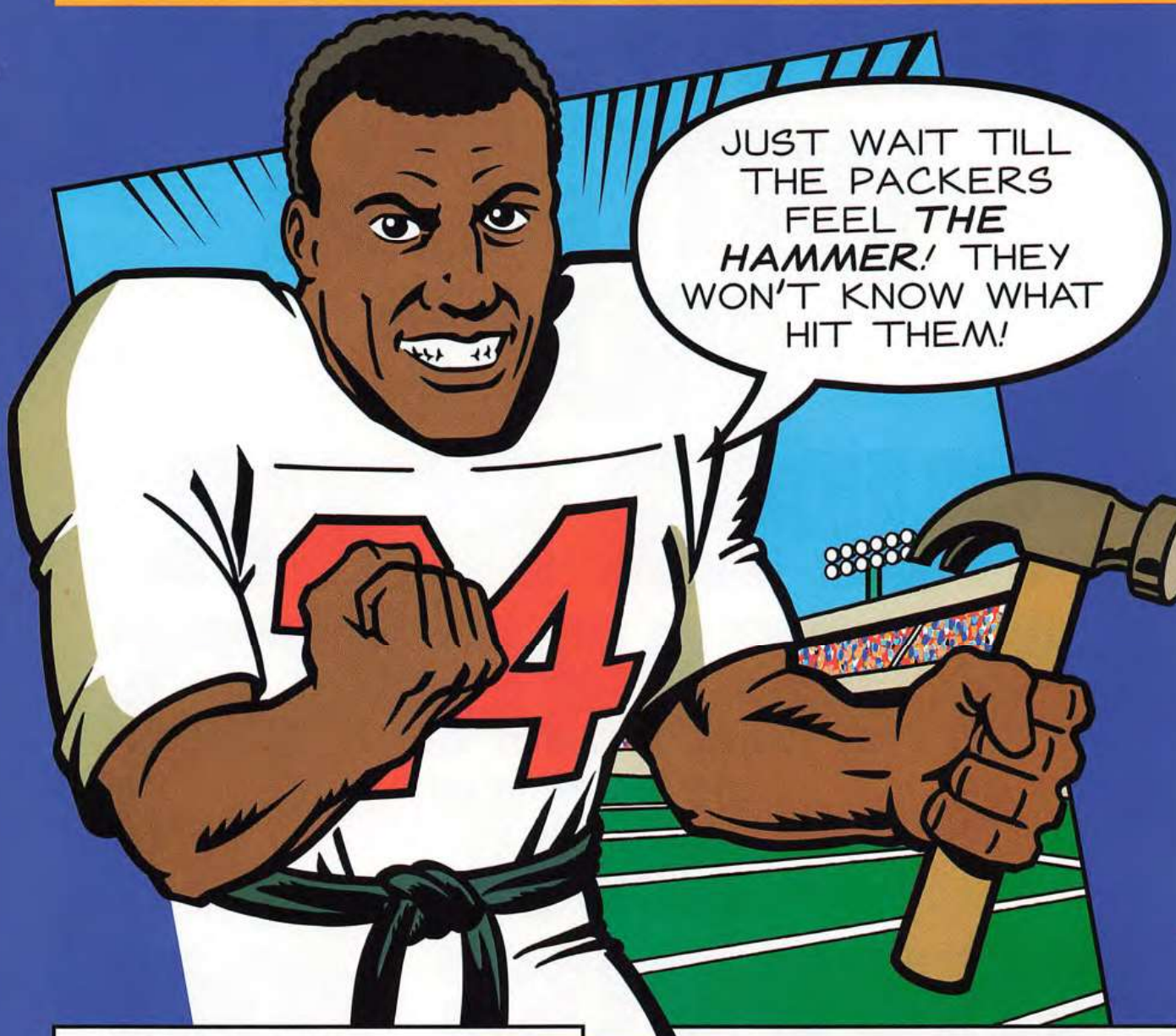
THE NFL TEAM WITH THE MOST SUPER BOWL APPEARANCES MAY SURPRISE YOU.

Which team has been to the most Super Bowls? You might think it's the Cowboys, Dolphins, or 49ers, but the answer is GTE, the Telecommunications Consultant to the Super Bowl. GTE has been to every Super Bowl since Super Bowl XX, providing stadium communications for the competing teams and the League, data services, and communications for network and press representatives from around the world. In fact, in the weeks surrounding the Super Bowl, GTE installs, activates, coordinates, and then dismantles lines at the game site and headquarters hotels equivalent to those used by a small city. It's a big job, but GTE has handled it in championship style for eight years in a row...an unbeatable winning streak.

GTE

GTE: TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT TO
THE NFL™ AND SUPER BOWL XXVII™

SUPER



"HAMMER" GETS NAILED

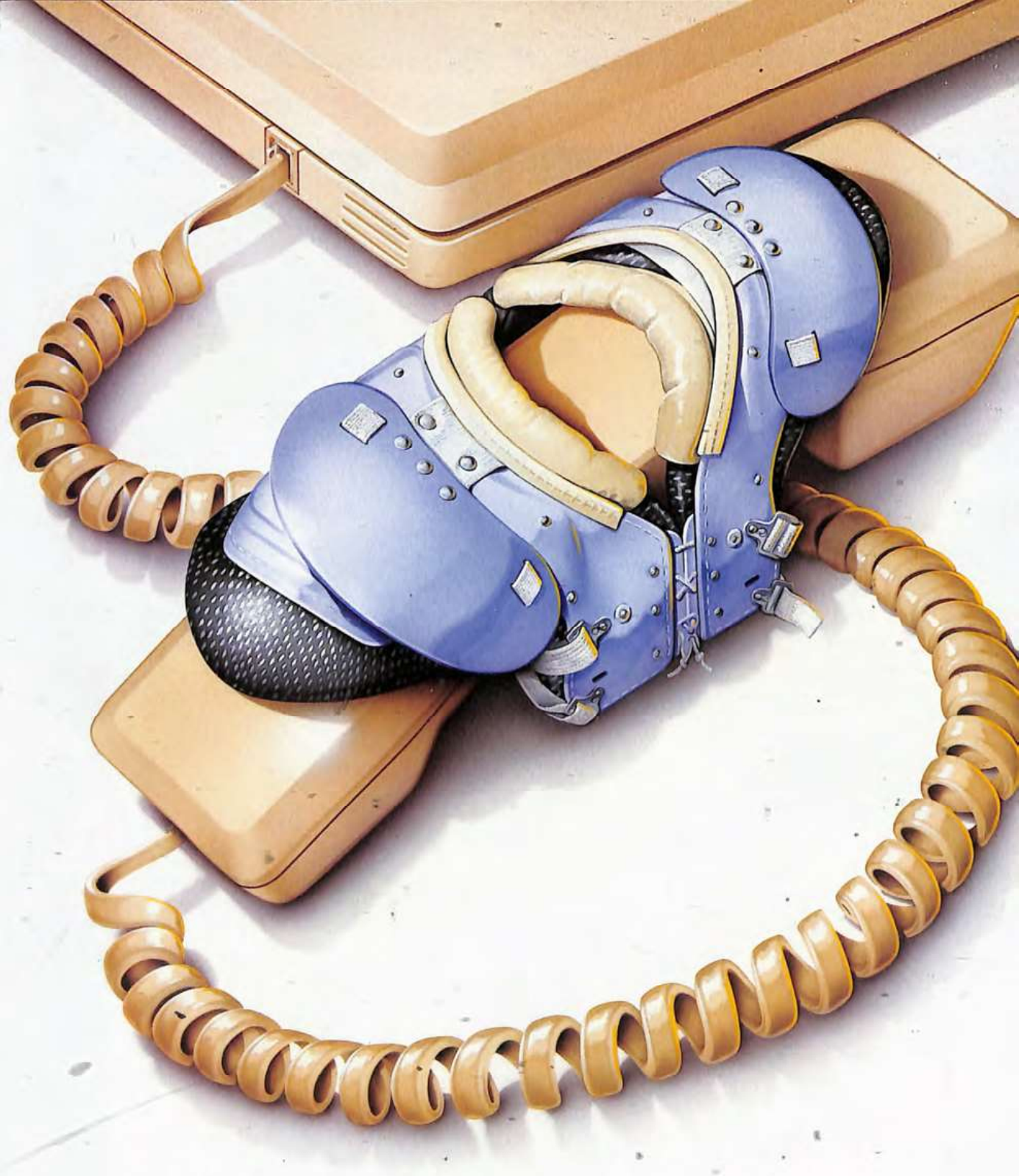
In the first Super Bowl between the AFL and NFL, the NFL-champion Green Bay Packers were heavily favored. Not everyone agreed, including outspoken Kansas City Chiefs cornerback Fred Williamson. "We're gonna whip Green Bay's rear," he said. Williamson, a karate black belt, was sure the Chiefs would win because he had a secret weapon—"the hammer," a forearm chop to the helmet—that he was going to use on the Packers' receivers. "Two hammers on [Boyd] Dowler and one on [Carroll] Dale should be enough," he said. "[Packers quarterback] Bart Starr. Who's he, anyway?"

LATER THAT DAY...

Williamson came up to meet a fourth-quarter Green Bay sweep with guard Gale Gillingham leading the way for rookie running back Donny Anderson. Gillingham's block missed Williamson, but Anderson ran him over, his knee hitting Williamson in the helmet and knocking him unconscious. Williamson then suffered a broken arm when a teammate fell on him. As Williamson lay on the field, Packers' guard Fuzzy Thurston stood over him softly humming the song "If I Had a Hammer." When reporters later asked victorious Green Bay head coach Vince Lombardi why it had taken the Packers so long to unload on Williamson, Lombardi replied, "That was the first time he got close to a play."

TOUGH TALKIN' THOMAS TAKES ON TOM AND TERRY

One of the all-time great NFL talkers—Super Bowl or otherwise—was Dallas linebacker Thomas (Hollywood) Henderson. "I put a lot of pressure on myself to see if I can play up to my mouth," Henderson said of himself. Upon giving him a game ball, Cowboys head coach Tom Landry once quipped, "Thomas, giving you a compliment is like pouring gasoline on a fire." Henderson's comments did have a way of heating up opponents. One of his most incendiary blasts came prior to Super Bowl XIII. "Terry Bradshaw couldn't spell cat if you spotted him the "c" and the "a," he said of the opposing Pittsburgh quarterback. After the Steelers won the hard-fought game 35-31 and Bradshaw was named MVP, Bradshaw said, "Go ask Thomas Henderson if I was dumb." When Bradshaw's statement was relayed to Henderson, he retorted, "I rated his intelligence. I didn't rate his ability."



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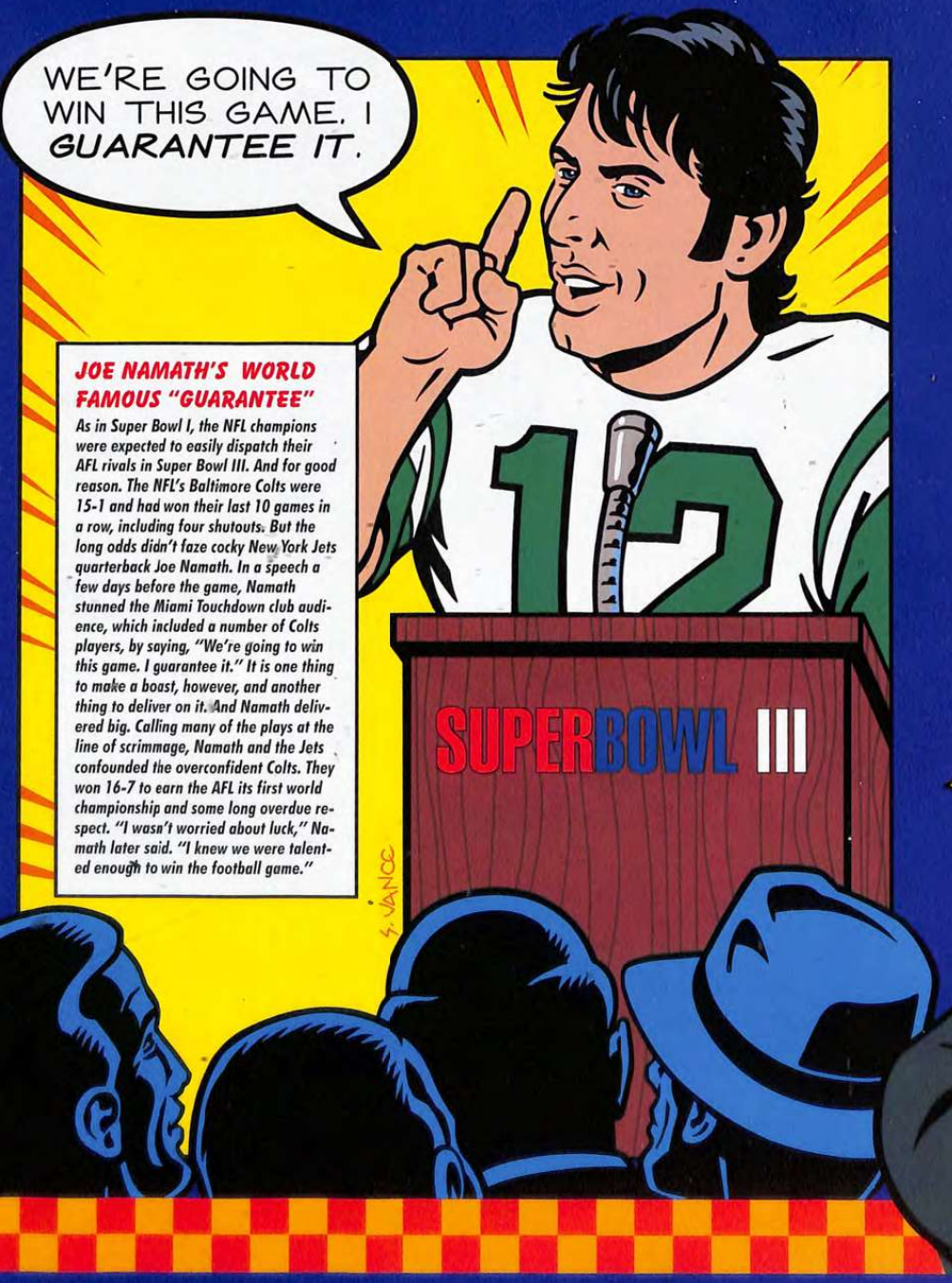
BOWL TALKERS



JOE NAMATH'S WORLD FAMOUS "GUARANTEE"

As in Super Bowl I, the NFL champions were expected to easily dispatch their AFL rivals in Super Bowl III. And for good reason. The NFL's Baltimore Colts were 15-1 and had won their last 10 games in a row, including four shutouts. But the long odds didn't faze cocky New York Jets quarterback Joe Namath. In a speech a few days before the game, Namath stunned the Miami Touchdown club audience, which included a number of Colts players, by saying, "We're going to win this game. I guarantee it." It is one thing to make a boast, however, and another thing to deliver on it. And Namath delivered big. Calling many of the plays at the line of scrimmage, Namath and the Jets confounded the overconfident Colts. They won 16-7 to earn the AFL its first world championship and some long overdue respect. "I wasn't worried about luck," Namath later said. "I knew we were talented enough to win the football game."

HANK STRAM'S OWN WORDS COME BACK TO HAUNT HIM

Kansas City head coach Hank Stram allowed himself to be wired for sound by NFL Films for Super Bowl IV. As it became clearer that the Chiefs were overpowering the Minnesota Vikings, Stram became more confident and vociferous. At one point, forgetting the open mike, Stram mocked the Vikings' vaunted defense, saying, "They didn't know where [running back] Mike [Garrett] was. Didn't know where he was. They didn't know where to go. [They were] running around out there like it was a Chinese fire drill." Though the Chiefs became the AFL's second successive Super Bowl champion, winning 23-7, the stage was set for an opening-day matchup between the two teams the next season. Prior to that 1970 game, Minnesota head coach Bud Grant made sure his team saw the Chiefs' highlight film from the previous year containing Stram's remark. The insulted Vikings, playing to reclaim their pride, crushed the Chiefs 27-10.

BOWL TALKERS

VICTORY SILENCES "MOTOR-MOUTH"...FOR A BRIEF MOMENT

Quarterback Joe Theismann was the first guy on the Washington Redskins that reporters looked for when they needed material. Known as a motor-mouth extraordinaire, the quotable Theismann, a member of the GTE Academic All-America Hall of Fame, always had something to say. Until, that is, the Redskins' rousing victory over the Dolphins in Super Bowl XVII. When asked after the game how he felt, Theismann only could say, "I'm speechless." But it proved temporary, as the loquacious quarterback reverted to form and reporters were scribbling fast to keep up with him as he spoke proudly of his team and its championship. "I think we can all pinch ourselves now," Theismann said. "The dream is over. There is no other pinnacle we have to climb. I'm so proud to be a member of the Washington Redskins I can't begin to tell you. This is forty-nine guys who fought their hearts out during the season. I'm here as a representative of all 49 and the coaching staff. There's nobody like 'em...right now there's nobody like 'em in the world."

DA BEARS..."PUTTIN' ON THE BLITZ"

The 1985 Chicago Bears were an overpowering team of colorful personalities and eccentrics with a flair for publicity—from quarterback Jim McMahon and his sunglasses and outlawed headbands, to folk hero defensive tackle William (The Refrigerator) Perry, to the epitome of Bear-ness head coach Mike Ditka. The Bears that season not only walked their talk out on the field, they recorded and videotaped it. Their million-selling rap record and videotape, "The Super Bowl Shuffle," (the proceeds from which were donated to charity) was the ultimate in Super Bowl talk because it was made long before they qualified for the playoffs that season. But the Bears lived up to their pregame boasts, blowing out the New England Patriots 46-10 in Super Bowl XX.

The Super Bowl Shuffle Chorus:
We are the Bears Shufflin' Crew, Shufflin' on down, doin' it for you.
We're so bad, we know we're good, Blowin' your mind like we knew we would.
You know we're just struttin' for fun, Struttin' our stuff for everyone.
We're not here to start no trouble. We're just here to do the Super Bowl Shuffle.

WHAT DOES AN NFL PASS PLAY HAVE IN COMMON WITH A GTE SERVICE CONTRACT?

In the heat of game action, when an NFL quarterback sets to throw, he knows exactly where his receivers will be. He knows they will run their pass routes the same way they've run them a hundred times before. That's what hard practice is all about—to make sure everyone is where they're supposed be when they're supposed to be there.

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GTE: TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT TO THE NFL™ AND SUPER BOWL XXVII™

GTE

SUPER BOWL

HERE'S A SUPER BOWL "WHO SAID IT?" TEST.

1. "When you walk out on the field for this game, it's the greatest feeling in the world. And when you walk off, and you haven't won, it's the worst feeling in the world."

a. Bud Grant
b. Ken Anderson
c. John Elway

2. "I don't care for the man. He makes more money than I do and he don't have no teeth."

a. Thomas (Hollywood) Henderson on Jack Lambert
b. Carl Eller on Otis Sistrunk
c. John (Frenchy) Fuqua on Jack Tatum

3. "Ron [Reagan] may be the President, but today I'm the King."

a. Joe Montana
b. Terry Bradshaw
c. John Riggins

4. "I was so surprised that I expected to open my other hand and find a silver dollar."

a. Lynn Swann
b. Ronnie Lott
c. Max McGee

5. "Regardless of what happens tomorrow, you'll always be my heroes."

a. Weeb Ewbank
b. Buddy Ryan
c. Mike Ditka

6. "If it's the ultimate [game], how come they're playing it again next year?"

a. Duane Thomas
b. Larry Csonka
c. Bronko Nagurski

QUOTE QUIZ

7. "I'd run over my mother to win it [Super Bowl XVIII]."
"I'd run over Grimm's mother, too."

a. Russ Grimm/John Matuszak
b. Russ Grimm/Matt Millen
c. Russ Grimm/Buck Buchanan

8. "How long have you been a black quarterback?"

a. Reporter to Warren Moon
b. Reporter to James Harris
c. Reporter to Doug Williams

9. "Anyone who says one loss cannot ruin a season never lost a Super Bowl."

a. Dick Vermeil
b. Don Shula
c. Raymond Berry

10. "No one believes me, but I have a very good arm."

a. Anthony Muñoz
b. Garo Yepremian
c. William (Refrigerator) Perry

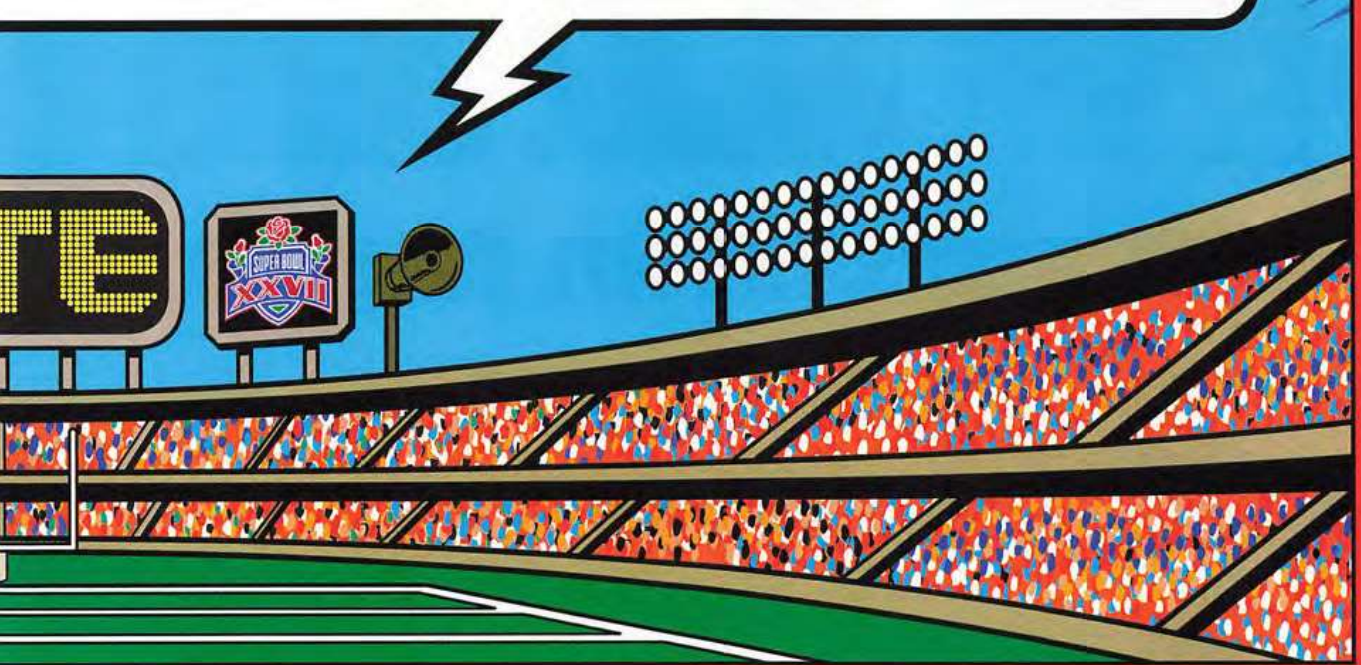
11. "We came, we saw, we kicked their butts."

a. Jim McMahon
b. Joe Kapp
c. Dave Butz

12. "I want to tell you...how very proud I am...of all of you."

a. Vince Lombardi
b. Tom Landry
c. Mike Ditka

THE ANSWERS ARE UPSIDE DOWN AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.



Answers • 1b Bengals QB Ken Anderson after Super Bowl XVI; 2a Cowboys DE Thomas (Hollywood) Henderson on Steelers LB Jack Lambert, prior to Super Bowl XII; 3c Redskins RB John Riggins after Super Bowl XVII; 4c Packers WR Max McGee on his one-handed touchdown catch in Super Bowl I; 5b Bears defensive coach Buddy Ryan to his players the night before Super Bowl XX; 6a Cowboys RB Duane Thomas before Super Bowl VI; 7b Redskins G Russ Grimm, Raiders LB Matt Millen before

GTE KEEPS THE NFL TALKING

A sideline conference between a head coach and his quarterback. An offensive coordinator signaling in plays. An all-night film session to complete a game plan. A halftime chalk talk. It's all communication of a specialized kind. That's why the National Football League prefers to work with the communication specialist, GTE. In its role as Telecommunications Consultant to the NFL and the Super Bowl, GTE facilitates the kinds of communication that keep NFL players, coaches, and management talking. Because in the NFL, as in any business, communication is the name of the game.

GTE: TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT TO THE NFL™ AND SUPER BOWL XXVII™

SCOUTING REPORT

The Matchups
Starting Lineups
Player Photos
How the Teams Were Built
Rosters

SCOUTING REPORT

NFC CHAMPION

DALLAS

COWBOYS

In the first month of 1993, the state of the union clearly is the state of Arkansas.

Two men who have more in common than their identical monograms, University of Arkansas alumni Jerry Jones and Jimmy Johnson, have taken the Dallas Cowboys to within a stride of the American mountain top.

Waiting for them at the summit, of course, is an Arkansas native named Bill Clinton. His final stride to the top came 11 days ago in Washington, D.C.

Jones and Johnson were teammates and roommates on the Razorbacks' undefeated national championship team in 1964. Their careers and lives took different directions after that, Jones pursuing business opportunities in his native state, Johnson taking his act on the coaching road.

Jones never forgot his old friend, however, and when he purchased the Dallas Cowboys in 1989 there was no question who his new head coach would be. Johnson, who had won 52 games in five seasons at the University of Miami, was given charge of a once-proud team that had posted three consecutive losing seasons.

Long Photography

Coach Jimmy Johnson (above) once was reviled in Dallas, but astute decisions such as the drafting of quarterback Troy Aikman (opposite) have made him a hero.

Things got worse before they got better. The Cowboys won only one game in 1989. The upturn began in 1990 with a 7-9 record, then came into full flower in 1991 (11-5) with the club's first playoff appearance since 1985.

Jones and Johnson have done a masterful job of rebuilding the franchise that was known as America's Team in the 1970s. They drafted quarterback Troy Aikman with the first pick in 1989. They drafted running back Emmitt Smith in the first round in 1990. They traded away Herschel Walker and received a host of talented players in return. They added tight end Jay Novacek through Plan B and defensive end Charles Haley in a trade. They rebuilt a devastated defense. They restructured an offensive line that really had been offensive.

In 1992, the Cowboys won a franchise-record 13 regular-season games. With playoff victories over Philadelphia and San Francisco, Johnson's team has won 21 times in 25 games.

Like their coach, the Cowboys are smart and disciplined. This is a team of thoroughbreds, a team that does it with pure talent, not razzle-dazzle.

These Cowboys are young and quick, able to both control the ball and get stronger as the game goes along.

Aikman might be the best young quarterback in the game. And is there a better runner than Smith? (Dallas is 27-1 when he carries the ball 20 or more times.) Or a better wide receiver than Michael Irvin? Six members of the team's offense were Pro Bowl choices.

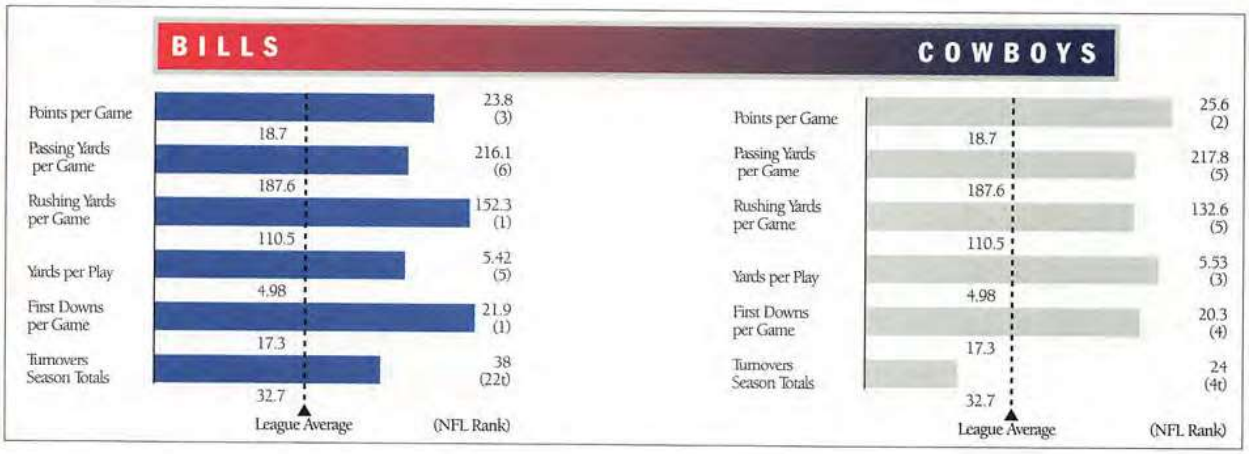
And all the no-name defense did was lead the NFL.

The Cowboys' only negative would seem to be their lack of Super Bowl experience.

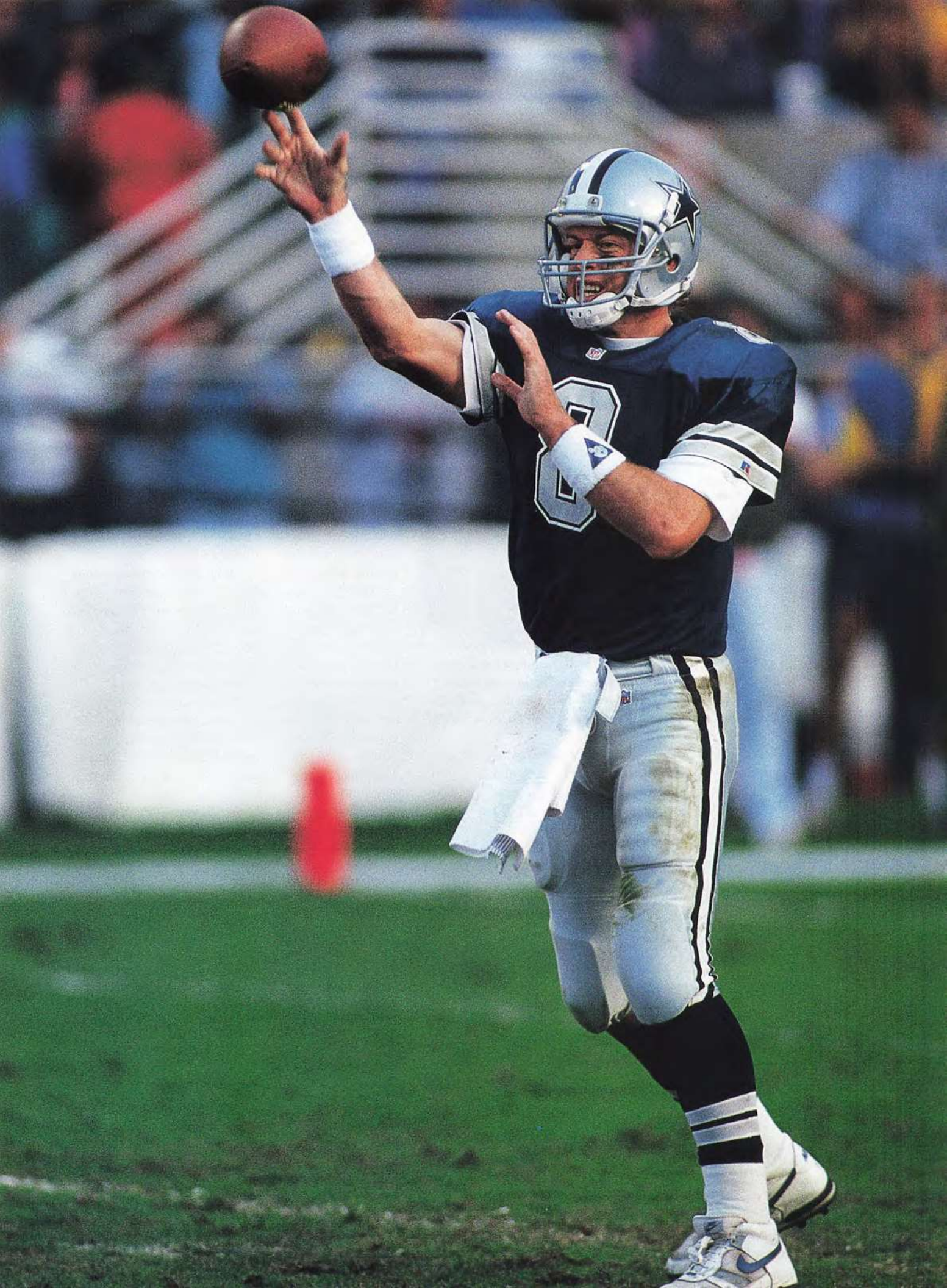
If an NFC team wins for the ninth time in a row, there'll be dancing in the streets of at least two cities. Dallas, of course.

And Little Rock.

OFFENSE



James D. Smith



SCOUTING REPORT

AFC CHAMPION

BUFFALO

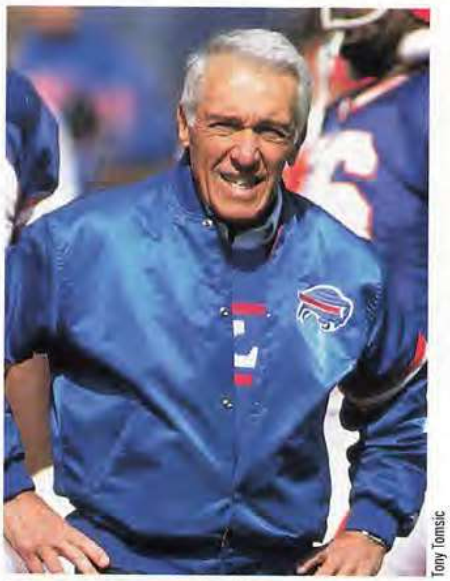
BILLS

Third time lucky...or three strikes and you're out? Welcome to another episode of You Make the Platitude.

There isn't a whole lot of spin to be put on the Buffalo Bills' third consecutive trip to football's ultimate crucible. If they fail, they will be the only team in history to lose three Super Bowls in a row. If they win, they will know the redemptive feeling of the sinner whose life is reclaimed by a miracle.

Buffalo is a classic underdog, and not simply because the AFC representative has lost the last eight games in this series. The Bills, like all of the 1992 AFC playoff teams, experienced their moments of futility.

Buffalo lost three of its last five regular-season games (including back-to-back losses to the Colts and struggling Jets), then fell behind the Oilers by 32 points in the third quarter of the wild-card game. It was at that point that the team changed into its Superman costume.



Tony Tomsic

Head coach Marv Levy (above) and running back Thurman Thomas (opposite) have been here before. Can they get the Super Bowl monkey off their backs in XXVII?

Backup quarterback Frank Reich led an impossible comeback to thwart Houston, and the Bills behaved like a new team thereafter. Since that 35-3 deficit, Buffalo has outscored its opponents to the tune of 91-16. Its playoff wins over Pittsburgh and Miami were amazingly easy.

As for personnel, there have been relatively few changes from games XXV and XXVI.

Jim Kelly, his injured right knee back in playing shape, still propels one of the NFL's most potent offenses; the wide receivers include a Pro Bowl choice (Andre Reed) and the NFL's career leader in receiving yardage (James Lofton); the defense features standouts such as end Bruce Smith and linebackers Cornelius Bennett and Shane Conlan.

Buffalo's No-Huddle offense still revolves around running back Thurman Thomas. He was the consensus choice as NFL player of the year in 1991, but he actually had more yards from scrimmage (2,113) in 1992. He is the only player to lead the NFL in that category four consecutive years.

"They have so many weapons that if you double up on one, one of the other superstars is open," New England Patriots nose tackle Tim Goad said after Buffalo had thrashed his team 41-7 in week 4.

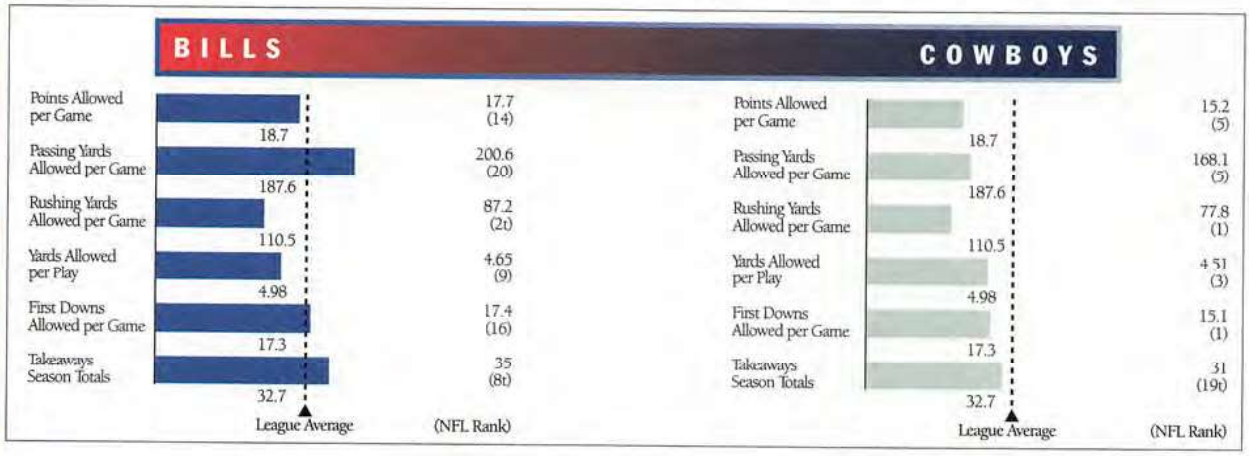
The Bills also were the only AFC team to go 4-0 against the NFC in 1992, but it's hard to shake the image of a Super Bowl disaster waiting to happen.

Kelly, for one, never would buy that estimation. After the Bills had defeated the Saints at the Superdome in week 16, one of their biggest wins of the season, he greeted the press with a playful question.

"How many people thought we could win this game?" he asked. Kelly pointed to the scattering of raised hands. "You're a liar...you're a liar...you're a liar," he said with a smile.

So, a show of hands: How many of you think the Bills can win this game? Our advice is to stick around for the full 60 minutes, even if the team in blue falls behind by 32 points.

DEFENSE



Peter Brouillet

34
Riddell
Wilson
NFL

SCOUTING REPORT

Star-Studded Airmen...

Cowboys PASSING

Every defense that prepares to face the Cowboys worries itself sick over Michael Irvin. There is good reason for that. The fifth-year wide receiver caught 78 passes for 1,396 yards in 1992, including 7 for touchdowns.

Irvin accounted for 39 percent of the Cowboys' receiving yards and hauled in their longest bomb (87 yards against the Phoenix Cardinals). But to focus exclusively on Irvin and long passing routes is to ignore the essence of the Dallas passing game.

The Cowboys take to the air in a disciplined fashion. They specialize in short and medium routes. Their average reception this season was 11.5 yards—more than a yard less than Buffalo's average catch—and their goal is not so much to destroy an opponent as to dominate possession.

An important ingredient in this formula is tight end Jay Novacek, who has displayed an uncanny ability to find seams in zones and to make timely receptions. Among his 68 catches in 1992 were many third-down conversions. Some scouts regard him as the key to the Dallas passing offense. To them, it came as no surprise that he earned his second successive Pro Bowl selection this season.

Another prominent figure in the passing scheme is running back Emmitt Smith, who is better known as the NFL's leading rusher. His 59 catches for 335 yards represented sizable increases over last season.

Another weapon that must be reckoned with is wide receiver Alvin Harper, whose 6-foot-3 frame should be an inviting target against smallish cornerbacks such as the Bills' Nate Odomes and James Williams, both of whom are 5-10.

The Cowboys almost always are satisfied taking small nibbles rather than huge bites. Their disciplined attack can be maddening to impatient fans, but statistics reflect its effectiveness: The Cowboys ran 141 more plays than opponents this season.

The boyish-looking trigger man behind the arsenal is quarterback Troy Aikman, who has improved his passer rating each of his four years in the league. His 3,445 yards and 23 touchdowns in 1992 both were personal bests. If he has any shortcoming, it is a penchant for excitability early in a game. His passes tend to fly high and deep until he settles down.

Aikman benefits from steady pass protection—he was sacked only 23 times this year—and he has demonstrated the patience to study the field before picking out a receiver. He spread his touchdown passes among six different receivers. Aikman has thrown only 1 interception since the twelfth game of the season, and he enters today's game with a streak of 107 passes without an interception. He has become a precision passer.

But if the Bills attempt to crowd the line of scrimmage and take away the medium routes, that's when Irvin, a big, swift target, is apt to make his presence felt. Of the 27 touchdown receptions in his five-year NFL career, 5 have gone for more than 60 yards.

James D. Smith

Jay Novacek's 68 catches for 630 yards led all NFL tight ends.

INSIDE STORY

Dallas quarterback Troy Aikman was not sacked very often (23 times, tied for second fewest in the NFL). Even when he was, it wasn't for very much: His 23 sacks resulted in a league-low of 112 yards in losses (an average of 4.9 yards per sack).

RECEIVING

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Irvin	78	1,396	17.9	87*t*	7
Novacek	68	630	9.3	34	6
E. Smith	59	335	5.7	26*t*	1
Harper	35	562	16.1	52	4
Martin	32	359	11.2	27	3
Johnston	32	249	7.8	18	2
Roberts	3	36	12.0	18	0
Agee	3	18	6.0	8	0
Richards	3	8	2.7	6	0
Gesek	1	4	4.0	4	0

t—touchdown

PASSING

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Pct. TD	Int.	Pct. Int.	Long	Sacks/Yards	Rating
Aikman	473	302	63.8	3,445	7.28	23	4.9	14	3.0	87*t*	23/112	89.5
Beuerlein	18	12	66.7	152	8.44	0	0.0	1	5.6	27	0/0	69.7

t—touchdown

. . .Against Upgraded Unit

Bills PASSING DEFENSE

You may have seen the Bills in Super Bowls XXV and XXVI, but don't go scrambling for your Super Bowl program scouting reports for the last two years because you didn't necessarily see these Bills, at least not on defense.

Sure, Buffalo has a lot of the same faces, but it also has a few new ones that helped transform the Bills from the NFL's twenty-sixth-rated defense in 1991 into one that ranked in the upper half of the league at number 12 in 1992.

Most notable among the new faces are defensive end Phil Hansen, who took over at left end and contributed 8 sacks, and strong safety Henry Jones, who displaced veteran Leonard Smith and had 8 interceptions.

There's one new old face as well: Right end Bruce Smith, hampered most of 1991 after having arthroscopic surgery on his knee, came back at full speed in 1992 and returned to his customary level as one of the league's most dominant defensive players.

Hansen has made perhaps the biggest difference in the Bills' passing defense because opponents now have to fear a fierce pass rush on both sides of the ball. He gained valuable experience filling in for the injured Smith in 1991, his rookie season, and has steadily improved this year, to the point where he equaled Smith's club record by registering at least 1 sack in each of the Bills' final six games.

Smith tied for fifth in the AFC with 14 sacks and is back in the Pro Bowl for the fifth time. If that's not enough for the Cowboys' offensive linemen and quarterback Troy Aikman to worry about, there's Cornelius Bennett. Normally an outside linebacker, Bennett (4 sacks, 15 quarterback pressures) was moved inside late in the season to provide extra run support; he also will line up as a down lineman when Dallas goes to three or four wide receivers. When Bennett is a lineman, it frees Smith to move anywhere and effectively negates Dallas's ability to double-team the pass rushers.

John H. Reid

Safety Henry Jones became the ballhawk of the Bills' secondary.

INTERCEPTIONS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Jones	8	263	32.9	82t	2
Kelso	7	21	3.0	13	0
Odomes	5	19	3.8	10	0
Williams	2	15	7.5	15	0
Conlan	1	7	7.0	7	0

t—touchdown

Jones was the Bills' number-one draft pick in April, 1991, but he spent more time on special teams than in the defensive backfield. A starter this year, he answered opponents' challenges by tying for the league lead in interceptions. He has exceptional range and isn't afraid to go for the football. But what's often overlooked is his hitting ability (he ranked second on the team with 92 total tackles).

The rest of the secondary is an experienced group that includes cornerbacks Nate Odomes and James Williams and free safety Mark Kelso.

Kelso intercepted 7 passes during the regular season, Odomes, a Pro Bowl alternate, had 5, and Williams had 2. The Bills' total of 23 was bettered by only four teams.

The linebackers corps is an athletic group that can rush the passer or provide good pass coverage. Marvcus Patton moved into the starting lineup at outside linebacker when Bennett shifted inside, and contributed a pair of sacks. Darryl Talley, maybe the most underrated player on the defense, is a two-time Pro Bowl pick who led the team with 106 tackles, including 4 sacks.

Even inside linebacker Shane Conlan (4 sacks) and nose tackle Jeff Wright (5½), normally known as run stoppers, got into the sack act.

INSIDE STORY

The Bills ranked twentieth in pass defense in 1992, allowing 200.6 yards per game, including a 439-yard effort by the 49ers. But in the 15 other games, Buffalo allowed only 184.7 yards per game, which would have placed the Bills thirteenth in the league.

But a strong pass rush is exactly what the Bills will need to counter the Cowboys' variety of weapons. Buffalo had 44 sacks during the regular season, a significant improvement over the 31 the Bills recorded in 1991.

Buffalo won't substitute a lot, a trend you're likely to see more and more in the NFL in the coming seasons as teams keep their best 11 players on the field.

But when Dallas goes to multiple-receiver formations, you can expect to see Kirby Jackson, Matt Darby, or Chris Hale as Buffalo goes to six- or even seven-defensive back formations.

SCOUTING REPORT

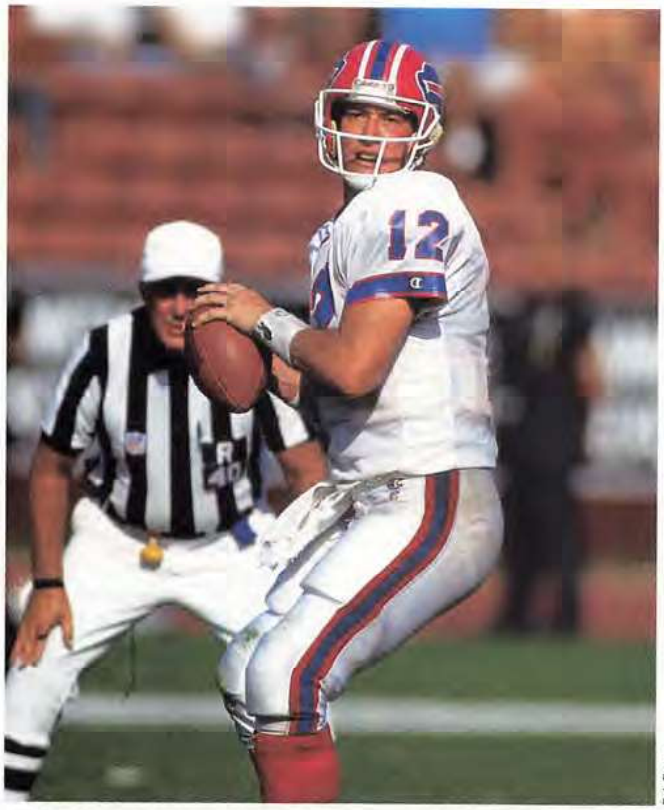
No-Huddle Attack...

Bills PASSING

NFL defenses have had three years to dissect the Bills' No-Huddle offense. So why haven't those 27 groups been able to stop it? Here are four hints: Kelly, Reed, Lofton, and Thomas. Who needs to huddle when you have names like that in your lineup?

Buffalo's huddleless attack matured in 1992. It became more deliberate, and it focused less on the deep strike and more on setting up third-and-3.

The numbers fell toward earth a bit, but the Bills still led the AFC with 381 points and 368.3 total yards per game. So don't take this offense for granted just because it has been here the last two years. The Cowboys certainly won't.



Rob Brown

Jim Kelly is healthy again and will trigger the Bills' offense.

RECEIVING

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Reed	65	913	14.0	51	3
Thomas	58	626	10.8	43	3
Lofton	51	786	15.4	50	6
Beebe	33	554	16.8	65t	2
Metzelaars	30	298	9.9	53t	6
K. Davis	15	80	5.3	22	0
McKeller	14	110	7.9	26	0
Lamb	7	139	19.9	53	0
Gardner	7	67	9.6	17	0
Awalt	4	34	8.5	10	0
Edwards	2	25	12.5	20	0
Tasker	2	24	12.0	17	0
Fuller	2	17	8.5	17	0
Frerotte	2	4	2.0	2t	2
Fina	1	1	1.0	1t	1

t—touchdown

Frank Reich became the toast of upstate New York after he led Buffalo to an unprecedented comeback against Houston in the AFC playoffs, but make no mistake about it—this is Jim Kelly's team. Kelly, who calls almost all the plays, still is one of the best quarterbacks in the game, even if his brimming confidence does get him into trouble sometimes. (His 19 interceptions were most in the NFL in 1992.)

The Bills usually line up in a three-wide-receiver set, with James Lofton and Don Beebe split wide and Andre Reed in the slot. Reed, a five-time Pro Bowl selection, is the most productive of the three. Kelly likes to send him on crossing patterns, occasionally using him in motion.

Lofton, who has more receiving yards (13,821) than anyone else in NFL history, is an athletic leaper who excels on sideline patterns. If Kevin Smith, Dallas's young cornerback, finds himself one-on-one with Lofton, the rookie might be in for an eye-opening experience. Beebe doesn't get as much press as the other two, but he's a deep threat who can kill a team that tries to contain him with single coverage.

Buffalo's starting tight end, Pete Metzelaars, had his best season since 1988. At 6 feet 7 inches, he is an obvious target in scoring situations.

As for the Bills' running backs, just ask the Dolphins if they can catch passes. Buffalo devastated Miami in the AFC title game with repeated screens to Thurman Thomas and Kenneth Davis. The Bills rely on two basic screens—the roll, in which Kelly tries to draw in one of the defensive ends, and the read, in which he has the option of throwing deep if the Nickel back recognizes the screen and runs up to stop it.

The Bills allowed only 29 sacks in 538 pass plays in 1992. That's a tribute to an exceptional offensive line and backs who are willing to block.

The Bills' No-Huddle offense forces opponents to make a tough decision on first down. Without being able to pause for substitutions, the defense must stick with the same 11 men for an entire series. That can result in mismatches.

One final note: If the ball is inside the 5-yard line, don't take your eyes off the big guys. Linemen Mitch Frerotte (3) and John Fina (1) had 4 touchdown catches in 19 games.

INSIDE STORY

In the first four games, Jim Kelly had a passer rating of 127.0. In the last 12, his rating was 68.8. Did he just cool off after a torrid start? Not entirely. An elbow injury he suffered in the fifth game probably had more to do with Kelly's reduced production.

PASSING

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Pct. TD	Int.	Pct. Int.	Long	Sacks/Yards	Rating
Kelly	462	269	58.2	3,457	7.48	23	5.0	19	4.1	65t	20/145	81.2
Reich	47	24	51.1	221	4.70	0	0.0	2	4.3	21	9/76	46.5

t—touchdown

. . . vs. No-Star Heroes

Cowboys PASSING DEFENSE

Head coach Jimmy Johnson may have pinpointed the key reason why his Cowboys are in the Super Bowl. "I think defense epitomizes our entire football team," he said after Dallas's convincing 34-10 victory over Philadelphia in an NFC Divisional Playoff Game. "As great a player as Troy Aikman is and Emmitt Smith is and Michael Irvin is, it's a team game. And we played great team defense."

A glance at the Cowboys' team defensive statistics shows no record-shattering figures; interceptions, sacks, and quarterback pressures are spread around in relatively uniform distribution. Perhaps that's why the Cowboys, despite having the NFL's top-ranked defense, had no players voted to the NFC Pro Bowl defensive squad.

Defensive end Charles Haley owns the only standout statistic—he had 42 quarterback pressures (the next-best thing to a sack) during the regular season. Defensive end Tony Tolbert and tackle Leon Lett were tied for second with 19 each. Haley had 6 sacks during the season, third on the team. Dallas's leading sacker was defensive end Jim Jeffcoat, who had 10½. Tolbert was second with 8½.

The Cowboys are not a blitzing team. Instead, they opt for applying steady, unrelenting pressure on the quarterback with their front four.

The Cowboys sacked the Eagles' Randall Cunningham 5 times in the divisional playoff. In the NFC Championship Game, the 49ers' Steve Young fared a little better; he was sacked 4 times. Which sets up a crucial question for the Bills today: If the Dallas rush was able to do that to the NFC's most renowned running quarterbacks, what will they do to a far less mobile Jim Kelly?

James D. Smith

Thomas Everett, who now wears 27, provides veteran leadership.

The answer to that question may lie with Buffalo's Pro Bowl tackle Will Wolford, who will have Haley as his major responsibility. And, as if the Dallas rush weren't enough, the Cowboys also will challenge Kelly with their talent for batting down passes at the line of scrimmage.

To compensate for Buffalo's standard three wide receivers and tight end, look for Dallas to favor a 4-2-5 set over its basic 4-3-4. The front four of this set will feature Haley and Tolbert at the ends, Russell Maryland and Tony Casillas at tackles, and Ken Norton and Robert Jones at linebackers. The defensive backs will be cornerbacks Kevin Smith and Larry Brown, safeties James Washington and Thomas Everett, and either Kenneth Gant or Darren Woodson replacing third linebacker Vinson Smith.

This alignment will help to minimize mismatches in coverage caused by the Bills' No-Huddle offense, which can limit an opponent's ability to bring in situational players. Dallas's team speed also will help it from falling prey to both Andre Reed's crossing patterns and the screen passes to Thurman Thomas and Kenneth Davis that the Bills ran so successfully against Miami in the AFC Championship Game.

The speed of the Cowboys' secondary allows it to play man-for-man defense against even the fastest receivers, although Dallas tends to favor zone coverage. If Kelly begins to probe the seams of the zones in the middle of the field, Dallas may be forced into more man coverage than it likes, or even to play bump-and-run.

INTERCEPTIONS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Washington	3	31	10.3	16	0
Gant	3	19	6.3	11	0
Everett	2	28	14.0	17	0
Horton	2	15	7.5	15t	1
Holt	2	11	5.5	8	0
K. Smith	2	10	5.0	7	0
Brown	1	30	30.0	30	0
Myles	1	13	13.0	13	0
Harper	1	1	1.0	1	0

t—touchdown

INSIDE STORY

Dallas ranked fifth against the pass in 1992, up from twenty-third in 1991. Why the turnaround? The Cowboys nearly doubled their sack total (23 to 44), and they allowed fewer third-down conversions (from 39.2 percent to an NFL-best 27.2 percent).

Brown was the team leader in passes defensed with 11, followed by Gant, who had 10. Washington, the leading tackler of the group (95), tied Gant for the lead in interceptions (3 each). Everett, Kevin Smith, safety Ray Horton, and cornerback Issaic Holt each had 2 interceptions.

The Cowboys ranked fifth in the NFL against the pass, allowing an average of 168.1 yards per game and a total of only 16 passing touchdowns during the season. Dallas gave up one scoring pass in each playoff game.

SCOUTING REPORT

Incredible Mr. Smith...

Cowboys RUSHING

The Cowboys' rushing offense can be summed up neatly in two words: Emmitt Smith.

In a season in which he led the National Football League in rushing (373 carries for 1,713 yards), Smith accounted for 75 percent of the Cowboys' carries from scrimmage and 81 percent of their rushing yards.

At 5-9 and 209 pounds, he almost always is surrounded by larger men, but his stutter-step quickness and surprising strength make him difficult to stop. And the Cowboys' offensive personnel is ideally suited to maximize his talents.

Left guard Nate Newton and center Mark Stepnoski both are Pro Bowl selections this year. Right guard John Gesek and right tackle Erik Williams are among the best run blockers in the game. Fullback Daryl Johnston, at 6-2 and 238 pounds, specializes in opening holes. In addition, the Cowboys often will line up in a spread formation and force the defense to spread out across the field, allowing Smith the opportunity to cut back against the grain.

James D. Smith

Emmitt Smith has become the NFL's prototypical running back.

Smith rushed for 100 or more yards seven times this season, and the Cowboys were unbeaten in those games. In the only three games Dallas lost—to the Eagles, Rams, and Redskins—Smith was held to 67, 80, and 99 yards, respectively. To stop Dallas, an opponent has to stop Smith.

The Cowboys' rushing game is most effective between the tackles. That probably will be the focus against the Bills. If Dallas can force Buffalo's talented linebacking crew to concentrate on the middle of the field, pass receivers can expect to find open lanes along the sidelines.

The biggest weakness in the Cowboys' scheme is the heavy reliance upon Smith. No other player on the Cowboys' roster ever has enjoyed a 100-yard game. Johnston, who had more receptions than carries, ran with the ball just 17 times during the regular season. Smith's backup, Tommie Agee, had only 16 attempts for 54 yards.

A hallmark of the Cowboys' offense under head coach Jimmy Johnson is its emphasis on ball control. During the regular season, the Cowboys averaged nearly 34 minutes possession time, tops in the league. That largely was due to a ground game that produced 4.2 yards per attempt. The Cowboys ran the ball 155 more times than their opponents.

On those occasions when opponents have focused on Smith, Cowboys' receivers have enjoyed a field day. The Denver Broncos limited him to 62 yards on 26 carries, but they paid a hefty price. Quarterback Troy Aikman passed for 231 yards and 3 touchdowns in a 31-27 Dallas triumph.

The Cowboys rarely feature gimmick plays such as reverses—wide receiver Alvin Harper carried once for 15 yards and Kelvin Martin 2 times for 13—but Smith is allowed the freedom to read his blocking and free-lance as a play unfolds. He is particularly adept at reacting and cutting outside when a play seems cut off.

One statistic worth keeping in mind—and a fact of which the Bills are doubtless aware—is this: The team that wins the ground game almost always wins the Super Bowl. Washington outrushed Buffalo 125 yards to 43 last year. The New York Giants outgained the Bills 172-166 the year before.

Moreover, only one time in the last 10 Super Bowls has the winning team passed the ball more often than it has run. And even that time—in Super Bowl XXIII, when the 49ers needed a frantic, last-quarter rally to defeat Cincinnati—the winning team outgained the losers on the ground.

In the most important game of the season, in a sport often dominated by huge men, little Emmitt Smith, at 5 feet 9 inches, could turn out to be the biggest single factor in today's outcome.

INSIDE STORY

If Emmitt Smith seems a tad slower on the Rose Bowl grass, it is not simply an optical illusion. Smith has averaged 4.5 yards per carry on artificial turf in his career, compared to 3.9 on grass. In 1992, Smith averaged 4.9 yards on artificial turf and 3.9 on grass.

RUSHING

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
E. Smith	373	1,713	4.6	68t	18
Richards	49	176	3.6	15	1
Aikman	37	105	2.8	19	1
Johnston	17	61	3.6	14	0
Agee	16	54	3.4	10	0
Harper	1	15	15.0	15	0
Martin	2	13	6.5	8	0
Beuerlein	4	-7	-1.7	-1	0
Irvin	1	-9	-9.0	-9	0

t—touchdown

. . . vs. Healthy Competition

Bills
RUSHING DEFENSE

Buffalo made its second consecutive Super Bowl appearance last year despite a rushing defense that ranked twenty-fourth in the NFL. The Bills played a "bend but don't break" scheme because of injuries to defensive end Bruce Smith and nose tackle Jeff Wright, who missed a total of 18 regular-season games in 1991.

What a difference a year—and the good health of Smith and Wright—makes.

The turnaround has been remarkable. The statistics support the story.

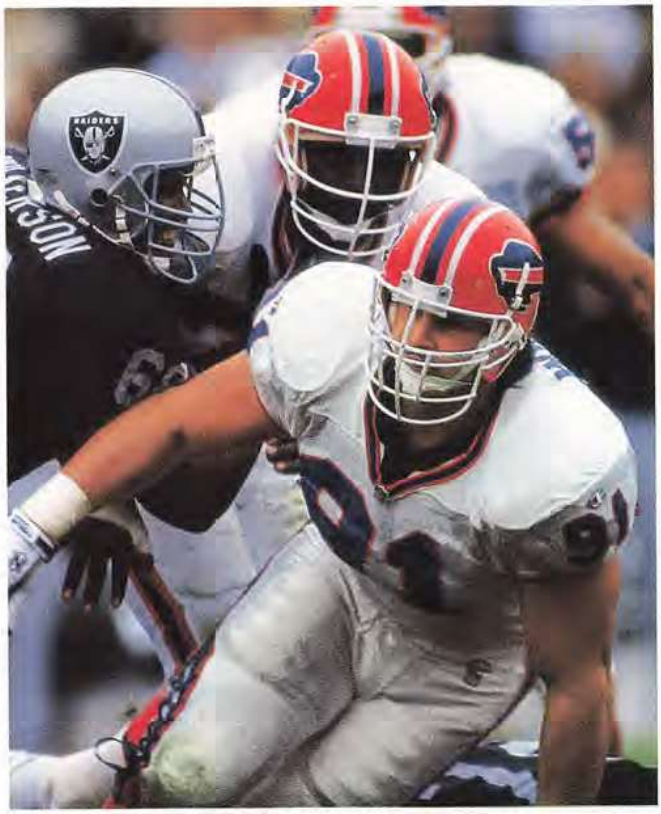
Buffalo finished the regular season in a second-place tie with San Diego for fewest rushing yards allowed (the Cowboys were the NFL's best in the category).

The Bills permitted an average of only 87.2 yards per game. The longest run they allowed in 427 opponent rushes was 29 yards, and only eight times in 16 games did someone run for a touchdown. One other statistical note: Only Dallas (68) and Philadelphia (73) gave up fewer rushing first downs than the Bills' 77.

The play of Wright and end Phil Hansen have been major reasons for the Bills' increased efficiency against the run.

Wright is an unheralded but steady eighth-round draft pick from Central Missouri State. He has posted 24½ sacks in his five years with the Bills.

Hansen, a second-round pick in 1991 after a distinguished career at North Dakota State, started 10 games as a rookie due to injuries along the defensive line. He beat out Super Bowl XXVI starter Leon Seals for the starting left end assignment in training camp.



Chris Covatta

Opponents will tell you Jeff Wright is an underrated nose tackle.

But an analysis of Buffalo's 1992 season must focus on the play of linebacker Cornelius Bennett, the catalyst of the improvement.

TACKLES

Name	Solo	Ast.	Total
Talley, LB	73	33	106
Jones, S	75	17	92
Smith, DE	66	23	89
Conlan, LB	61	21	82
Bennett, LB	61	20	81
Wright, NT	51	19	70
Bailey, LB	44	21	65
Hansen, DE	47	17	64
Odomes, CB	53	10	63
Jackson, CB	42	6	48
Williams, CB	37	2	39
Kelso, S	24	13	37
Patton, LB	20	5	25
Maddox, LB	17	7	24
Darby, S	15	8	23

Bennett has been moved to an inside linebacker position (he started on the outside left in Super Bowl XXVI), a change that has given him considerably more range and freedom to attack opposing runners.

Defensive coordinator Walt Corey has installed a more basic game plan that involves fewer blitzes and very little substitution.

The 11 who start usually finish, with the notable exception being short-yardage situations, when Carlton Bailey replaces Mark Kelso.

The linebacking corps features Darryl Talley (the team's leading tackler), Shane Conlan, and Marvcus Patton, who got a starting assignment when Bennett was moved inside.

Talley and Conlan both have played in the Pro Bowl, an honor achieved this year by Bennett, Smith, and second-year strong safety Henry Jones.

Kelso and Jones, who was second to Talley in tackles, give the Bills a pair of fearless safeties who take on all comers on running plays.

The cornerbacks, Nate Odomes and James Williams, rotate up in coverage and force runners back to the middle of the field, where Bennett and his cohorts collect most of the tackles. (Note that Odomes and Williams ranked ninth and eleventh on the team, respectively, in tackles.)

The matchup between the Dallas running game and Buffalo run defense has the appearances of a standoff.

The Bills are the AFC's most physical team and their tackling is among the best in the NFL. They face a Dallas offense that is quick, especially outside, and strong up front.

To get what they want against the Cowboys, the Bills must control the line of scrimmage, which will allow them to force the action in Dallas's backfield.

And they have to make Emmitt Smith pay for every yard he gains.

How much he gains may well be the story of Super Bowl XXVII.

INSIDE STORY

Buffalo made a huge turnaround against the run, allowing 40 fewer yards per game in 1992 (87.2) than it had in 1991 (127.8). The reasons included the return of injured players such as Bruce Smith and the emergence of young ones such as Phil Hansen.

SCOUTING REPORT

Unstoppable Runners...

Bills RUSHING

The Buffalo Bills have been here before with virtually the same cast of characters for their running attack. Few of the names have changed, which gives the Bills a big plus against the Cowboys' first Super Bowl team.

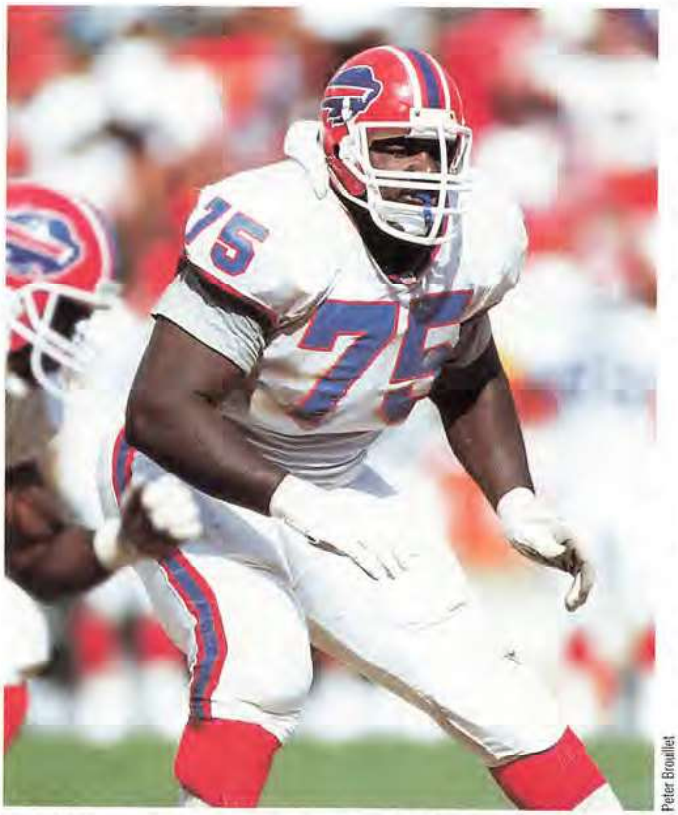
Buffalo's running game ranked number one in the NFL, averaging 152.3 yards per game, and it will get a chance to prove itself against the Cowboys' rushing defense, which also ranked number one in the league by giving up an average of only 77.8 yards per game.

For the Bills, the biggest difference between this team and the one that lost to the Redskins last year is the realization that they have two great running backs in Thurman Thomas and Kenneth Davis.

Thomas was the AFC's second-leading rusher (1,487 yards) and the NFL leader in total yards from scrimmage with 2,113.

INSIDE STORY

So much for the No-Huddle being a passing offense: In the two full seasons Buffalo has used it, the Bills have won two NFL rushing crowns. In 1991 and 1992 combined, they averaged 150.5 yards per game and 4.57 yards per attempt in 32 regular-season games.



Peter Brouillet

Tackle Howard Ballard helps propel the NFL's top running attack.

It was Thomas's fourth straight 1,000-yard rushing season. He shows slightly better numbers on artificial turf than on grass surfaces. He averaged 4.5 yards per carry on grass versus 4.9 on artificial surfaces in 1992. The Rose Bowl is a grass field.

Davis finished eleventh in AFC rushing with 613 yards and 6 touchdowns. He was used as a primary weapon in 1992, not merely as Thomas's "backup."

Thomas relies on his great cutback ability for his yardage, while Davis provides a different dimension when he enters the game. Davis has much better outside speed than Thomas, so the Bills produce a different look the minute they change running backs. Davis was a bit player for the Bills in Super Bowl XXV. He was more involved in XXVI, and he is a major player in the game plan for Super Bowl XXVII.

Thomas and Davis give the Bills a formidable one-two punch to throw at the Cowboys and they will use it from the outset. The Bills love to run on first down—about 80 percent of the time.

Quarterback Jim Kelly runs the Bills' No-Huddle offense on the run-first, pass-later theory. It worked for 11 victories during the regular season and three more in the playoffs.

RUSHING

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Thomas	312	1,487	4.8	44	9
K. Davis	139	613	4.4	64t	6
Gardner	40	166	4.2	19	2
Reed	8	65	8.1	24	0
Kelly	31	53	1.7	10	1
Fuller	6	39	6.5	15	0
Mohr	1	11	11.0	11	0
Tasker	1	9	9.0	9	0
Edwards	1	8	8.0	8	0
Beebe	1	-6	-6.0	-6	0
Reich	9	-9	-1.0	0	0

t—touchdown

The blocking back in this offense is 6-2, 232-pound Carwell Gardner, who also was in the lineup in Super Bowl XXVI. Gardner is used infrequently as a ball carrier—usually only in goal-line situations—but he is a devastating lead blocker for the two big guns.

Another plus is the offensive line. Except for right guard Glenn Parker, this offensive unit is making its third straight Super Bowl appearance as a group. Parker played in Super Bowl XXV, but did not start.

Tackles Howard Ballard and Will Wolford are headed to the Pro Bowl as the leaders of this solid group. Jim Ritcher, who made the Pro Bowl last year, is at left guard, and Kent Hull is the center. Both Parker and Ritcher are adept at pulling to lead sweeps, and Ballard (at 325 pounds) and Wolford (at 297) pack enough heft to move defenders aside.

Buffalo gets good blocking from its tight ends and wide receivers. The Bills put in a new offensive set for 1992, using two tight ends and two running backs on definite running plays. They'll use it in short-yardage situations.

Mitch Frerotte, a 6-3, 285-pound offensive lineman, is brought in as a tight end near the goal line. Frerotte also will be positioned at fullback, with Gardner as a running back and John Fina, a 6-4, 282-pound offensive lineman, at tight end. That gives Buffalo unusual bulk for running plays, but both Frerotte and Fina have scored touchdowns on receptions.

In Super Bowl XXVII, the running game is a battle of the number-one offense versus the number-one defense.

What more could you ask?

. . . Meet Immovable Defense

Cowboys RUSHING DEFENSE

The Cowboys' rushing defense led the NFL, a ranking built by stopping some of the league's best running teams.

In Super Bowl XXVII, they get their chance against *the* best running team. The Buffalo Bills averaged 152.3 rushing yards per game in 1992 to lead the NFL for the second consecutive season.

Conversely, Dallas set a club record by allowing just 77.8 rushing yards per game. Only three teams—Philadelphia, Detroit, and the Los Angeles Rams—gained more than 100 yards against the Cowboys, and Dallas lost two of those three games.

TACKLES

Name	Solo	Ast.	Total
Norton, LB	64	56	120
R. Jones, LB	55	53	108
Washington, S	51	44	95
Tolbert, DE	46	41	87
V. Smith, LB	33	36	69
Brown, CB	45	16	61
Everett, S	27	31	58
Casillas, DT	28	27	55
Gant, S	33	21	54
Maryland, DT	26	23	49
Jeffcoat, DE	23	19	42
Haley, DE	21	18	39
Horton, S	18	16	34
Woodson, S	28	5	33
K. Smith, CB	22	9	31
Holt, CB	23	7	30
Lett, DT	13	13	26
J. Jones, DT	14	9	23
Myles LB	12	9	21

Unfortunately for the Cowboys, they will not have their best run defense on the field. Buffalo's No-Huddle offense, which features three wide receivers and one back, will force Dallas to use its Nickel package—four down linemen, two linebackers, and five defensive backs.

John McDonough

Russell Maryland anchored the NFL's best ground defense.

Fortunately for Dallas, it has stopped running teams using this set. The Redskins' one-back, three-receiver set managed only 75 and 68 rushing yards in the teams' two meetings. Dallas limited Atlanta's Red Gun offense to 40 rushing yards on 11 attempts.

In the Cowboys' Nickel set, one of the linebackers (probably Vinson Smith) will come out, replaced by an extra defensive back (Kenneth Gant, Darren Woodson, or Issiac Holt).

Those players remaining on the field have two things in common: speed and agility. The Cowboys' defense is not very big, but it is very fast, which gives it the ability to run down just about anyone. The defense also is very quick, so it can get around offensive linemen even if it can't overpower them.

The Cowboys' speed, coupled with their discipline, should allow them to contain Buffalo's reverses. Dallas will have to guard against overrunning plays, particularly when Thurman Thomas has the ball because Thomas excels at suddenly changing direction and his acceleration makes him especially dangerous.

Also, because the Cowboys' defenders can run down any play to the outside, the best way to attack them is right up the middle. The Eagles' straight-ahead attack produced 160 rushing yards and a Philadelphia victory the first time the teams met.

In the teams' second meeting, the Cowboys utilized a set with five down linemen, one linebacker, and five defensive backs. They limited the Eagles to 73 rushing yards in Dallas's 20-10 victory. If Thomas starts running wild against their Nickel defense, the Cowboys might employ their 5-1-5 alignment.

Dallas also can counter bigger teams (such as Buffalo) by mixing up its linebackers and interior linemen to create an offset alignment. But patience may be the Cowboys' best weapon—their speed, depth, and youth allows them to outlast most opponents.

Ken Norton and rookie Robert Jones are the linebackers in the Nickel set. Norton led Dallas with 120 tackles, while Jones finished second with 108.

Tony Tolbert and Charles Haley man the ends, while Tony Casillas and Russell Maryland start at defensive tackle. To keep players fresh, the Cowboys substitute liberally along the line with Jim Jeffcoat, Jimmie Jones, and Leon Lett. Haley, one of two Cowboys with Super Bowl experience (reserve safety Ray Horton, who played for Cincinnati in XXIII, is the other), is the only lineman who plays every down.

Among the defensive backs, free safety James Washington is the best run-stopper.

INSIDE STORY

Dallas's rushing defense owes a thank you to the offense for its number-one ranking. The Cowboys' defense faced the fewest number of running plays in the league (345), largely because of an offense that held the ball longer than any other team in the NFL.

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SCOUTING REPORT

Return to End Zone

Cowboys SPECIAL TEAMS

Speed and youth defined the Dallas special teams in 1992, and it was a mix that usually created intensity, risk, and excitement.

The most potent weapons in the Cowboys' special-teams arsenal are the feet of kick returner Kelvin Martin. The speedster from Boston College finished first in the NFL with 532 yards on punt returns. His 12.7-yard average placed him second in the league.

INSIDE STORY

The Cowboys do not make mistakes on special teams. Mike Saxon has not had a punt blocked in three seasons, and Dallas did not allow a touchdown on a kickoff or punt return in 1992. Meanwhile, the special teams produced 3 touchdowns and a safety.

What really sets Martin apart is his ability to make big plays. In the season opener, a 23-10 victory over division-rival Washington, he put away the game with a 79-yard punt return for a touchdown. Against the Rams, he had a 74-yard scoring effort.

Along with his punt-returning duties, Martin is Dallas's number-one kickoff returner. While he is not quite as dangerous on kickoffs, Martin did average 21 yards per return, which was ninth in the NFC.

David Drapkin

Explosive Kelvin Martin fields both punts and kickoffs for Dallas.

Youth was most evident in kicker Lin Elliott, a rookie free agent from Texas Tech. The Cowboys lost kicker Ken Willis via Plan B free agency and called upon Elliott to take his place.

Although he finished the season third in the NFC and fourth in the NFL with 119 points, Elliott has yet to prove himself in a pressure situation.

During the year, he made only 69 percent of his field-goal attempts, which placed him twentieth among NFL kickers. He had the most trouble between 40 and 50 yards, converting only 5 of 10 tries. Elliott was 3 of 4 from more than 50 yards, but he had trouble placing kickoffs deep.

The punt and kickoff coverage teams are loaded with young and aggressive players with excellent speed. Rookie Darren Woodson led the team with 19 total special-teams tackles. He was followed by Dixon Edwards (15), Clayton Holmes (15), Kenneth Gant (13), and Vinson Smith (13). All have fewer than five years of NFL experience, and all play linebacker or defensive back.

This group struggled some overall, but produced big results late in the season. In the NFC Championship Game, Edwards forced a fumble by San Francisco's Alan Grant on a punt return that led to the first points of the game—a field goal by Elliott.

Another forced fumble on a kickoff in the Cowboys' 34-10 divisional playoff victory over the Eagles led to a field goal that gave Dallas a 17-3 lead seconds before halftime.

Dallas's punt-return unit blocked 2 punts that netted a safety and a touchdown during the regular season.

The elder statesman of the Cowboys' special teams is punter Mike Saxon, a free agent who is in his eighth year.

Saxon finished fifth in the NFC and ninth in the NFL with a 43.0-yard average, but he placed only tenth and twenty-second, respectively, with a 33.5-yard net average. He did place 19 punts inside the opponents' 20-yard line.

Inconsistent at times, Saxon has been reliable when it comes to avoiding big mistakes. Since 1989, the Cowboys have not invited another punter to challenge Saxon in training camp. He has justified Dallas's confidence by not having a punt blocked in the last three years.

If Buffalo tries to block a kick, it may come from up the middle. Dallas snapper Dale Hellestrae has a tendency to miss oncoming defenders as he keeps his head down too long on the snap.

KICKING GAME AND RETURNS

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	In 20	Long	Block
Saxon	61	2,620	43.0	19	58	0
PUNT RETURNS	**No.**	**FC**	**Yds.**	**Avg.**	**Long**	**TD**
Martin	42	18	532	12.7	79t	2
K. Smith	1	0	17	17.0	17	0
Horton	1	0	1	1.0	1	0
KICKOFF RETURNS		**No.**	**Yds.**	**Avg.**	**Long**	**TD**
Martin		24	503	21.0	59	0
Wright		8	117	14.6	21	0
Holmes		3	70	23.3	28	0
K. Smith		1	9	9.0	9	0
Edwards		1	0	0.0	0	0
FIELD GOALS	**1-19**	**20-29**	**30-39**	**40-49**	**50+**	**Total**
Elliott	0/0	6/7	10/14	5/10	3/4	24/35

t—touchdown

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SCOUTING REPORT

Getting a Leg Up

Bills SPECIAL TEAMS

After the 1991 season, the Bills realized they had one area of their special teams that needed improvement—the kicking game. When Tampa Bay did not protect kicker Steve Christie, Buffalo jumped at the opportunity to sign him as a Plan B free agent. And the Bills are happy they did.

Christie was outstanding during the regular season, finishing second in the AFC (and fifth in the NFL) with 115 points. He connected on 43 of 44 extra points and 24 of 30 (80 percent) field goals.

During Buffalo's three postseason victories, he was even better, converting 8 of 9 field-goal attempts, including an NFL postseason record-tying 5 against Miami in the AFC Championship Game.

Besides being a very accurate kicker, Christie also is known for his strong leg. He tied for the NFL's longest field goal in 1992—54 yards in week 11 against the Dolphins. He finished the season by making 3 of his 5 attempts from more than 50 yards. In his three-year career, Christie is 5 of 7 on field goals of more than 50 yards. Don't be surprised to see Bills head coach Marv Levy go to Christie on attempts from as far out as 55 yards.

Buffalo's punting duties are capably handled by Chris Mohr. The three-year veteran had another solid season in 1992, averaging 42.2 yards per punt. He also finished with a net average of 36.8 yards (fifth best in the AFC).

Mohr gets excellent height on his kicks. This accounts for the fact that only 22 of his 60 punts were returned this season.

He also is very adept at placing the ball inside the opponents' 20-yard line. He dropped 13 of his punts inside the 20 and only had 7 touchbacks in 1992.

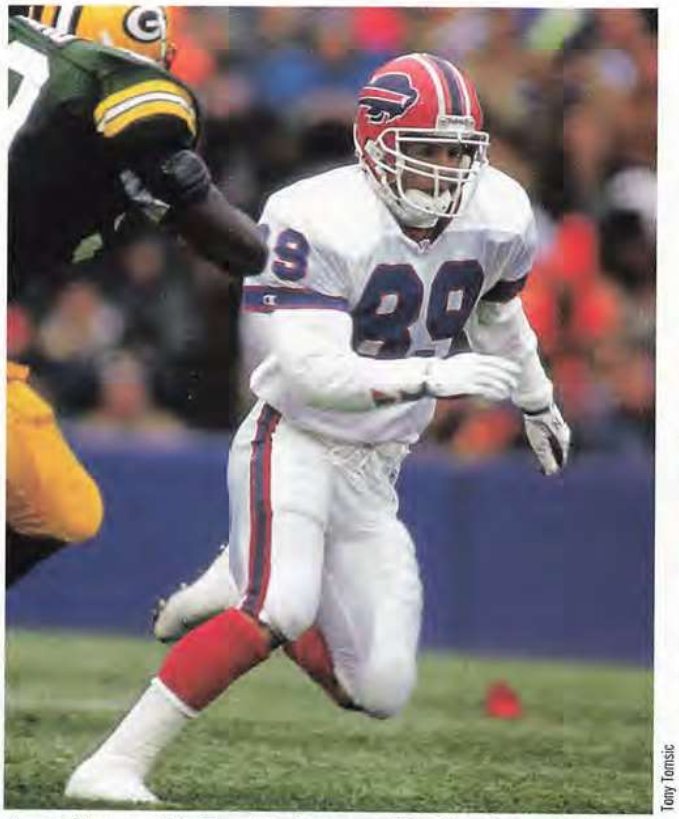
Mohr, who gets his punts off quickly, has not had a punt blocked in two seasons with the Bills.

Buffalo's punt and kickoff returners are solid, but not spectacular.

Sure-handed punt returner Clifford Hicks, who finished sixth in the AFC with a 10-yard average this season, excels at getting upfield quickly, thus avoiding costly negative yardage on returns. Helping Hicks will be Chris Hale, who was reactivated from the injured-reserve list for the AFC Championship Game. Before he was injured, Hale averaged 12.5 yards on 14 returns.

Kenneth Davis, better known as Thurman Thomas's outstanding backup, and first-year man Brad Lamb are the kickoff returners. Neither had great statistics (Davis averaged only 17.9 yards on 14 returns; Lamb 19.4 on 5), but both have excellent speed, and are capable of breaking an occasional long return.

The heart and soul of the Bills' coverage teams is backup wide receiver Steve Tasker. Tasker, who was named to his fourth Pro Bowl (third consecutive) as the AFC's best special-teams player, is known for his relentless effort on both the punt and kickoff coverage squads and for his ability to block kicks (he has 6 blocked punts during his career). Tasker finished second on Buffalo's special teams with 19 tackles (tied with linebacker Mark Maddox) in 1992. Backup defensive lineman Mark Pike led the Bills with 26 tackles.



Tony Tomsic

Special-teams whiz Steve Tasker earned his fourth Pro Bowl bid.

INSIDE STORY

If the Super Bowl comes down to a long field goal, the Bills will be in good hands. Steve Christie, signed as a free agent before the season, made 10 of 13 field-goal attempts from 40 yards or more. In his career, he has made 19 of 24 from 40 or more yards.

KICKING GAME AND RETURNS

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	In 20	Long	Block
Mohr	60	2,531	42.2	13	61	0
PUNT RETURNS	**No.**	**FC**	**Yds.**	**Avg.**	**Long**	**TD**
Hicks	29	6	289	10.0	42	0
Hale	14	2	175	12.5	27	0
KICKOFF RETURNS		**No.**	**Yds.**	**Avg.**	**Long**	**TD**
K. Davis		14	251	17.9	35	0
Edwards		12	274	22.8	34	0
Fuller		8	134	16.8	28	0
Lamb		5	97	19.4	31	0
Hicks		1	5	5.0	5	0
Frerotte		1	0	0.0	0	0
FIELD GOALS	**1-19**	**20-29**	**30-39**	**40-49**	**50+**	**Total**
Christie	2/2	9/9	3/6	7/8	3/5	24/30

t—touchdown

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SCOUTING REPORT

How They Were Built

Cowboys

Year	Draft (25)	Trade (7)	Free Agents (14)/Waivers (1)
1983 12-5 2nd, NFC East	DE Jim Jeffcoat (1)		T Mark Tuinei
1985 10-7 1st, NFC East			P Mike Saxon
1986 7-9 3rd, NFC East			G Nate Newton
1987 7-8 2nd, NFC East	G-T Kevin Gogan (8) WR-KR Kelvin Martin (4)		S Robert Williams
1988 3-13 5th, NFC East	WR Michael Irvin (1) LB Ken Norton (2) DT Chad Hennings (11)		
1989 1-15 5th, NFC East	QB Troy Aikman (1) RB Daryl Johnston (2) C Mark Stepnoski (3A) DE Tony Tolbert (4)	CB Issiac Holt (from Minnesota)	S Ray Horton
1990 7-9 4th, NFC East	RB Emmitt Smith (1) DT Jimmie Jones (3) S Kenneth Gant (9)	G-C Dale Hellestrae (from L.A. Raiders) G John Gesek (from L.A. Raiders)	S James Washington RB Tommie Agee TE Jay Novacek LB Vinson Smith
1991 12-6 2nd, NFC East	DT Russell Maryland (1A) WR Alvin Harper (1B) LB Dixon Edwards (2) LB Godfrey Myles (3A) T Erik Williams (3C) DT Leon Lett (7) CB Larry Brown (12)	QB Steve Beuerlein (from L.A. Raiders) DT Tony Casillas (from Atlanta)	G-T Alan Veingrad
1992 15-3 NFC Champions	CB Kevin Smith (1A) LB Robert Jones (1B) WR Jimmy Smith (2A) S Darren Woodson (2B) CB Clayton Holmes (3A)	DE Charles Haley (from San Francisco) S Thomas Everett (from Pittsburgh)	C-G Frank Cornish K Lin Elliott RB Derrick Gainer TE Derek Tennell LB Mickey Pruitt (waivers)

TM

Dallas Cowboys Club Directory

Jimmy Johnson.....Head Coach
Hubbard Alexander.....Assistant Coach
Joe Avezzano.....Assistant Coach
Joe Brodsky.....Assistant Coach
Dave Campo.....Assistant Coach
Butch Davis.....Assistant Coach
Robert Ford.....Assistant Coach
Steve Hoffman.....Assistant Coach
Bob Slowik.....Assistant Coach
Norv Turner.....Assistant Coach
Dave Wannstedt.....Assistant Coach
Tony Wise.....Assistant Coach
Mike Woicik.....Assistant Coach

CLUB PERSONNEL

Jerry Jones.....President/General Manager
Mike McCoy.....Vice President
Stephen Jones.....Vice President
Jack Dixon.....Treasurer
Bruce Mays.....Director of Operations
Craig Glieber.....Asst. Director of Operations
Steve Carichoff.....Operations Assistant
Marylyn Love.....Administrative Assistant
Connie Medina.....Secretary (Administration)
Larry Lacewell.....Director of College Scouting
Jim Garrett.....Scout
Walter Juliff.....Scout
Jeff Smith.....Scout
Walt Yowarsky.....Scout
Chris Hall.....Administrative Aide (Player Personnel)
Laura Fryar.....Secretary (Player Personnel)
George Hays.....Vice President/Director of Marketing
Charlotte Anderson.....Marketing, Spec. Events Coord.
Mark Faber.....Sales and Marketing
Doreen Bice.....Secretary (Marketing)
Mary Magoon.....Secretary (Marketing)
Rich Dalrymple.....Director of Public Relations
Dave Pelletier.....Asst. Director of Public Relations
Brett Daniels.....Public Relations Assistant
Deana Patterson.....Secretary (Public Relations)
Joel Finglass.....Director of Ticket Sales and Promotions
Tandra Cromer.....Sales and Promotions
Tamara Fulton.....Sales and Promotions
Joey Giacomarro.....Ticket Sales
Tammy Hirschfield.....Ticket Sales
Robert Newhouse.....Sales and Promotions
Carol Padgett.....Ticket Manager
Andrea Payne.....Ticket Sales
Melissa Stodghill.....Ticket Sales
Ron Thornton.....Sales and Promotions
Steve Forgey.....Building Supervisor
Kathy Coleman.....Mailroom/Supplies
Wanda Forgey.....Switchboard Operator
Ruben Garcia.....Security
Terry Green.....Security
Rueben Rodriguez.....Security
Kevin O'Neill.....Head Trainer
Don Cochren.....Medical Records Coordinator/Trainer
Jim Maurer.....Assistant Trainer
Dr. Robert Vandermeer.....Team Physician
Dr. John Baker.....Team Physician
Dr. J.R. Zamorano.....Team Physician
Scott Touchet.....Training Intern
Buck Buchanan.....Equipment Manager
Mike McCord.....Asst. Equipment Manager
Louis Jackson.....Assistant (Equipment)
Robert Jackson.....Assistant (Equipment)
Al Walker.....Assistant (Equipment)
Robert Blackwell.....Video Director

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

Sept. 7 Issiac Holt's safety was Cowboys' first score; Emmitt Smith gained 140 yards. Dallas 23, Washington 10.

Sept. 13 Leading 34-0 in third quarter, Cowboys barely hung on to end four-year losing streak at Giants Stadium. Dallas 34, N.Y. Giants 28.

Sept. 20 Wide receiver Michael Irvin was one-man wrecking crew: 3 touchdowns, 8 catches, and 210 receiving yards. Dallas 31, Phoenix 20.

Oct. 5 Eagles defenders spent game making life miserable for Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman—4 sacks and 3 interceptions. Philadelphia 31, Dallas 7.

Oct. 11 Big day for Dallas defense: 7 sacks, 3 turnovers, and Cowboys' first regular-season shutout in 14 years. Dallas 27, Seattle 0.

Oct. 18 At end of defensive struggle, safety Ray Horton's fourth-quarter interception squelched Chiefs' last threat. Dallas 17, Kansas City 10.

Oct. 25 Smith carried 29 times for 152 yards and Cowboys exploded for 21 second-half points in erasing 13-7 third-quarter deficit. Dallas 28, L.A. Raiders 13.

Nov. 1 Smith gained 163 yards on 30 attempts to become first 100-yard rusher against Philadelphia in 54 games. Dallas 20, Philadelphia 10.

Nov. 8 Cowboys scored in every quarter and impressed Lions coach Wayne Fontes. "They had a tremendous amount of weapons," he said. Dallas 37, Detroit 3.

Nov. 15 Mistake-free Rams, led by Cleveland Gary's 110 yards, ended Cowboys' home winning streak at 11 games. L.A. Rams 27, Dallas 23.

Nov. 22 Aikman's season-best 25 completions—2 for touchdowns—propelled Cowboys to second win over Cardinals. Dallas 16, Phoenix 10.

Nov. 26 Smith's 26-yard touchdown reception and longest run from scrimmage (68-yard touchdown) highlighted Thanksgiving Day feast. Dallas 30, N.Y. Giants 3.

Dec. 6 Cowboys were outgained but turned 5 Denver turnovers into 21 points; 3 touchdown passes by Aikman. Dallas 31, Denver 27.

Dec. 13 With 3:14 left and Dallas leading by 4 points, Aikman's fumble in Cowboys' end zone resulted in decisive touchdown. Washington 20, Dallas 17.

Dec. 21 Falcons lost 3 fumbles, Aikman passed for 3 touchdowns, and Smith gained 174 yards in Cowboys' highest-scoring game of season. Dallas 41, Atlanta 17.

Dec. 27 Outcome was determined by third quarter, with Cowboys leading 27-0; Smith finished with club-record 1,713 rushing yards for season. Dallas 27, Chicago 14.

Jan. 10 After surrendering first-quarter field goal, Cowboys scored 34 consecutive points to qualify for first NFC Championship Game since 1982. Dallas 34, Philadelphia 10.

Jan. 17 Aikman passed for 322 yards and 2 touchdowns, and Smith gained 114 yards as Cowboys capitalized on 4 turnovers. Dallas 30, San Francisco 20.

SCOUTING REPORT

How They Were Built

Bills

Year	Draft (30)	Trade (2)	Free Agents (14)/Waivers (1)
1980 11-6 1st, AFC East	G Jim Ritcher (1)		
1983 8-8 3rd, AFC East	QB Jim Kelly (1B) LB Darryl Talley (2)		
1985 2-14 5th, AFC East	DE Bruce Smith (1A) QB Frank Reich (3A) WR Andre Reed (4A)	TE Pete Metzelaars (from Seattle)	
1986 4-12 4th, AFC East	T Will Wolford (1B) DE Mark Pike (7B)		C Kent Hull S Mark Kelso WR Steve Tasker (waivers)
1987 7-8 4th, AFC East	LB Shane Conlan (1) CB Nate Odomes (2A) TE Keith McKeller (9) T Howard Ballard (11)	LB Cornelius Bennett (from Indianapolis)	CB Kirby Jackson
1988 13-5 1st, AFC East	RB Thurman Thomas (2) NT Jeff Wright (8B) LB Carlton Bailey (9)		C-G Mitch Frerotte
1989 9-8 1st, AFC East	WR Don Beebe (3) CB Chris Hale (7B)		G John Davis RB Kenneth Davis QB Gale Gilbert C Adam Lingner WR James Lofton
1990 15-4 AFC Champions	CB James Williams (1) RB Carwell Gardner (2) G-T Glenn Parker (3) LB Marvcus Patton (8) NT Mike Lodish (10)		CB Clifford Hicks
1991 15-4 AFC Champions	S Henry Jones (1) DE Phil Hansen (2) WR Brad Lamb (8) LB Mark Maddox (9)		P Chris Mohr
1992 14-5 AFC Champions	G-T John Fina (1) LB Keith Goganious (3) S Matt Darby (5) S Kurt Schulz (7)		TE Rob Awalt K Steve Christie DE Keith Willis

Buffalo Bills Club Directory

Marv Levy	Vice President/Head Coach
Tom Bresnahan	Assistant Coach
Walt Corey	Assistant Coach
Bruce DeHaven	Assistant Coach
Charlie Joiner	Assistant Coach
Rusty Jones	Assistant Coach
Don Lawrence	Assistant Coach
Chuck Lester	Assistant Coach
Elijah Pitts	Assistant Coach
Dick Roach	Assistant Coach
Dan Sekanovich	Assistant Coach
Jim Shofner	Assistant Coach
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Ralph C. Wilson, Jr	President
Bill Polian	Vice President/General Manager
Linda Bogdan	Corporate Vice President
Jeffrey C. Littmann	Treasurer
Bob Ferguson	Assistant G.M./Director of Pro Personnel
Bill Munson	Assistant G.M./Business Operations
Ed Stillwell	Director of Administration
Jim Overdorf	Business Manager
Christy Wilson Hofmann	Executive Assistant to G.M.
Patricia Kaczor	Secretary (General Manager)
Mary Tash	Secretary (Assistant General Manager)
Linda Turello	Secretary (Admin./Operations)
John Butler	Director of Player Personnel
A.J. Smith	Assistant Director/College Scouting
Dwight Adams	College Scout
Doug Majeski	College Scout (BLESTO)
Bob Ryan	College Scout
Chink Sengel	College Scout
Dave G. Smith	College Scout
Dave W. Smith	College Scout
Bob Windish	College Scout
Tom Gibbons	Scouting Admin. Assistant
Jacky Kosmowski	Scouting Admin. Assistant
Colleen McCarville	Scouting Admin. Assistant
Michele Overdorf	Scouting Admin. Assistant
Bob Schatz	Scouting Administrative Assistant
Ed Abramoski	Head Trainer
Bud Carpenter	Assistant Trainer
Bill Ford	Assistant Trainer
Dave Hojnowski	Equipment Manager
Randy Ribbeck	Assistant Equipment Manager
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Dennis Cianfrini	Video Assistant
Eric Kunttu	Video Assistant
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Denny Lynch	Director of Public/Community Relations
Scott Berchtold	Director of Media Relations
Cathy Spencer	Office Manager
June Foran	Box Office Controller
Debbi Cummins	Assistant
Karen Renzi	Assistant
Kristin Fiegel	Assistant
Amy Gomikiewicz	Assistant
Sharon Hart	Assistant
Chris Hauret	Assistant
Don Purdy	Assistant
Steve Champlin	Director of Stadium Operations
George Koch	Manager of Engineering
Tom Christen	Stadium Operations Staff
Art Hauret	Stadium Operations Staff
Paul Kofink	Stadium Operations Staff
Kevin Raden	Stadium Operations Staff
Denise Stanley	Stadium Operations Staff
Kim Ziccardi	Stadium Operations Staff
Debbie Gang	Administrative Assistant
Colleen Stack	Receptionist
Tim Maloney	Entertainment Director
Joe Niland	Transportation
Dr. Richard Weiss	Team Physician
Dr. Joseph Armenia	Team Physician
Nancy Hermann	Secretary (Coaching Staff)
Nina Laur	Secretary (Head Coach)

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

Sept. 6 Thurman Thomas scored 4 touchdowns, while Henry Jones and Nate Odomes each intercepted 2 Jim Everett passes. Buffalo 40, L.A. Rams 7.

Sept. 13 Steve Young (449 yards) outpassed Jim Kelly (403), but Bills won game billed as Super Bowl preview. Buffalo 34, San Francisco 31.

Sept. 20 Bruce Smith had 2½ sacks, Jones scored twice on interceptions, and Colts were held to 140 total yards. Buffalo 38, Indianapolis 0.

Sept. 27 Leading only 6-0 at halftime, Bills scored touchdowns on first four possessions of second half. Buffalo 41, New England 7.

Oct. 4 In battle of unbeaten teams, Dolphins safety Louis Oliver intercepted 3 passes, returning one for 103-yard score. Miami 37, Buffalo 10.

Oct. 11 Underdog Los Angeles sacked Kelly 5 times and held Bills to their lowest point total since 1988. L.A. Raiders 20, Buffalo 3.

Oct. 26 New York took lead with 1:50 remaining, but Kelly's 12-yard touchdown pass to Thomas with 51 seconds left won it for Bills. Buffalo 24, N.Y. Jets 20.

Nov. 1 Bills tied Miami for AFC East lead, holding winless Patriots to 196 total yards from scrimmage in defensive struggle. Buffalo 16, New England 7.

Nov. 8 Led by Thomas's 155 yards on 37 carries, Bills built 21-6 halftime lead and outgained AFC Central-leading Steelers 458-233. Buffalo 28, Pittsburgh 20.

Nov. 16 Bills, playing almost error-free on road, capitalized on 2 turnovers and three big defensive penalties to claim division lead. Buffalo 26, Miami 20.

Nov. 22 Bills built 35-0 lead on first five possessions, led by rushing of Kenneth Davis (career-high 181 yards) and Thomas (103). Buffalo 41, Atlanta 14.

Nov. 29 Kelly was limited to 11 completions in 33 attempts and Colts scored upset on 40-yard field goal by Dean Biasucci. Indianapolis 16, Buffalo 13 in overtime.

Dec. 6 Safety Brian Washington returned interception 23 yards for touchdown with 1:41 left, handing Bills second straight upset loss. N.Y. Jets 24, Buffalo 17.

Dec. 12 A 64-yard Kelly-to-Don Beebe touchdown pass on trick play got Bills rolling toward 24-0 lead; Thomas had 120 rushing yards. Buffalo 27, Denver 17.

Dec. 20 Bills trailed 13-3 at halftime, but held 11-3 Saints to 31 total yards in second half; Thomas had 177 yards from scrimmage. Buffalo 20, New Orleans 16.

Dec. 27 Bills lost 3 interceptions, game, AFC East title, and their starting quarterback—Kelly sprained his right knee in second quarter. Houston 27, Buffalo 3.

Jan. 3 After falling behind 35-3 in wild-card matchup, backup quarterback Frank Reich led greatest comeback in NFL history. Buffalo 41, Houston 38 in overtime.

Jan. 9 Defense had 7 sacks and 2 interceptions in convincing divisional-playoff win before record crowd at Three Rivers Stadium. Buffalo 24, Pittsburgh 3.

Jan. 17 Thomas (166) and Davis (113) combined for 279 yards from scrimmage and sent the Bills to the Super Bowl for the third consecutive year. Buffalo 29, Miami 10.

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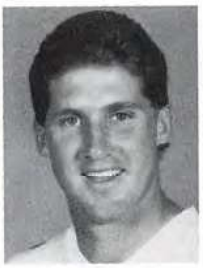
2 Lin Elliott
Kicker

4 Mike Saxon
Punter



7 Steve Beuerlein
Quarterback

8 Troy Aikman
Quarterback

20 Ray Horton
Safety

22 Emmitt Smith
Running Back

23 Robert Williams
Safety

24 Larry Brown
Cornerback

26 Kevin Smith
Cornerback

27 Thomas Everett
Safety

28 Darren Woodson
Safety

29 Kenneth Gant
Safety

30 Issiac Holt
Cornerback

34 Tommie Agee
Running Back

37 James Washington
Safety

39 Derrick Gainer
Running Back

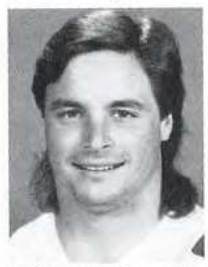
40 Bill Bates
Safety

47 Clayton Holmes
Cornerback

48 Daryl Johnston
Running Back

51 Ken Norton
Linebacker

52 Mickey Pruitt
Linebacker



53 Mark Stepnoski
Center

55 Robert Jones
Linebacker

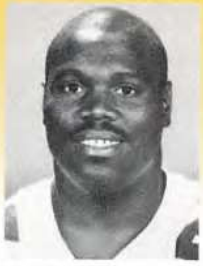
57 Vinson Smith
Linebacker

58 Dixon Edwards
Linebacker

61 Nate Newton
Guard

63 John Gesek
Guard

66 Kevin Gogan
Guard-Tackle



67 **Russell Maryland**
Defensive Tackle

68 **Frank Cornish**
Center-Guard

70 **Dale Hellestrae**
Guard-Center

71 **Mark Tuinei**
Tackle

75 **Tony Casillas**
Defensive Tackle

76 **Alan Veingrad**
Guard-Tackle

77 **Jim Jeffcoat**
Defensive End

78 **Leon Lett**
Defensive Tackle

79 **Erik Williams**
Tackle

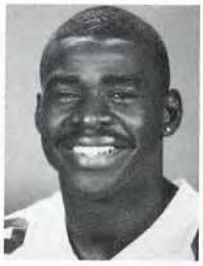
80 **Alvin Harper**
Wide Receiver

82 **Jimmy Smith**
Wide Receiver

83 **Kelvin Martin**
Wide Receiver

84 **Jay Novacek**
Tight End

87 **Alfredo Roberts**
Tight End



88 **Michael Irvin**
Wide Receiver

89 **Derek Tennell**
Tight End

90 **Tony Hill**
Defensive End

92 **Tony Tolbert**
Defensive End

94 **Charles Haley**
Defensive End

95 **Chad Hennings**
Defensive Tackle

97 **Jimmie Jones**
Defensive Tackle

98 **Godfrey Myles**
Linebacker

Hubbard Alexander
Assistant Coach

Joe Avezzano
Assistant Coach

Joe Brodsky
Assistant Coach

Dave Campo
Assistant Coach

Butch Davis
Assistant Coach

Robert Ford
Assistant Coach

Steve Hoffman
Assistant Coach

Bob Slowik
Assistant Coach

Norv Turner
Assistant Coach

Dave Wannstedt
Assistant Coach

Tony Wise
Assistant Coach

Mike Woicik
Assistant Coach

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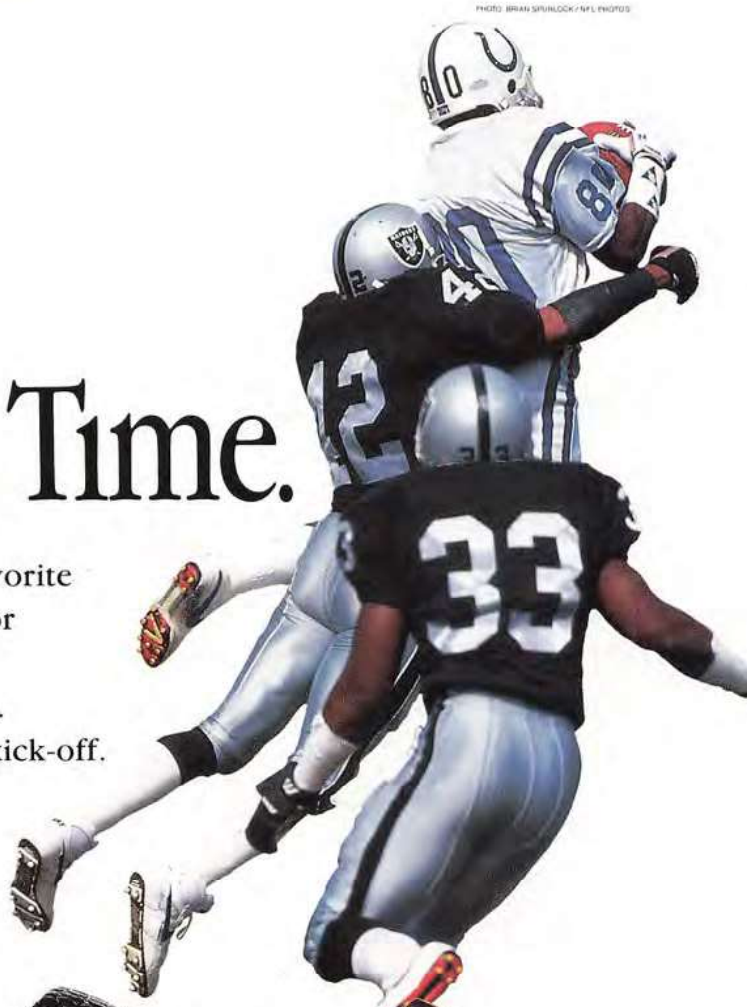
Team NFL



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DALLAS COWBOYS

Alphabetical Roster

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	NFL Exp.	College
34	Agee, Tommie	RB	6-0	227	2/22/64	5	Auburn
8	Aikman, Troy	QB	6-4	222	11/21/66	4	UCLA
7	Beuerlein, Steve	QB	6-2	213	3/7/65	5	Notre Dame
24	Brown, Larry	CB	5-11	185	11/30/69	2	Texas Christian
75	Casillas, Tony	DT	6-3	273	10/26/63	7	Oklahoma
68	Cornish, Frank	C-G	6-4	285	9/24/67	3	UCLA
58	Edwards, Dixon	LB	6-1	224	3/25/68	2	Michigan State
2	Elliott, Lin	K	6-0	182	11/11/68	R	Texas Tech
27	Everett, Thomas	S	5-9	183	11/21/64	6	Baylor
39	Gainer, Derrick	RB	5-11	240	8/15/66	2	Florida A&M
29	Gant, Kenneth	S	5-11	191	4/18/67	3	Albany State
63	Gesek, John	G	6-5	282	2/18/63	6	Cal State-Sacramento
66	Gogan, Kevin	G-T	6-7	319	11/2/64	6	Washington
94	Haley, Charles	DE	6-5	245	1/6/64	7	James Madison
80	Harper, Alvin	WR	6-3	207	7/6/67	2	Tennessee
70	Hellestrae, Dale	G-C	6-5	283	7/11/62	6	Southern Methodist
95	Hennings, Chad	DT	6-6	267	10/20/65	R	Air Force
47	Holmes, Clayton	CB	5-10	181	8/23/69	R	Carson-Newman
30	Holt, Issiac	CB	6-2	198	10/4/62	8	Alcorn State
20	Horton, Ray	S	5-11	188	4/12/60	10	Washington
88	Irvin, Michael	WR	6-2	199	3/5/66	5	Miami
77	Jeffcoat, Jim	DE	6-5	276	4/1/61	10	Arizona State
48	Johnston, Daryl	RB	6-2	238	2/10/66	4	Syracuse
97	Jones, Jimmie	DT	6-4	276	1/9/66	3	Miami
55	Jones, Robert	LB	6-2	238	9/27/69	R	East Carolina
78	Lett, Leon	DT	6-6	292	10/12/68	2	Emporia State
83	Martin, Kelvin	WR-KR	5-9	165	5/14/65	6	Boston College
67	Maryland, Russell	DT	6-1	275	3/22/69	2	Miami
98	Myles, Godfrey	LB	6-1	242	9/22/68	2	Florida
61	Newton, Nate	G	6-3	303	12/20/61	7	Florida A&M
51	Norton, Ken	LB	6-2	241	9/29/66	5	UCLA
84	Novacek, Jay	TE	6-4	231	10/24/62	8	Wyoming
52	Pruitt, Mickey	LB	6-1	218	1/10/65	5	Colorado
4	Saxon, Mike	P	6-3	200	7/10/62	8	San Diego State
22	Smith, Emmitt	RB	5-9	209	5/15/69	3	Florida
82	Smith, Jimmy	WR	6-1	205	2/9/69	R	Jackson State
26	Smith, Kevin	CB	5-11	177	4/7/70	R	Texas A&M
57	Smith, Vinson	LB	6-2	237	7/3/65	4	East Carolina
53	Stepnoski, Mark	C	6-2	269	1/20/67	4	Pittsburgh
89	Tennell, Derek	TE	6-5	270	2/12/64	5	UCLA
92	Tolbert, Tony	DE	6-6	265	12/29/67	4	Texas-El Paso
71	Tuinei, Mark	T	6-5	298	3/31/60	10	Hawaii
76	Veingrad, Alan	G-T	6-5	280	7/24/63	6	East Texas State
37	Washington, James	S	6-1	203	1/10/65	5	UCLA
79	Williams, Erik	T	6-6	321	9/7/68	2	Central State, Ohio
23	Williams, Robert	S	5-10	186	10/2/62	6	Baylor
28	Woodson, Darren	S	6-1	215	4/25/69	R	Arizona State

Depth Chart

Offense							
WR	— 80	**Alvin Harper**	83	Kelvin Martin		82	Jimmy Smith
LT	— 71	**Mark Tuinei**	76	Alan Veingrad		66	Kevin Gogan
LG	— 61	**Nate Newton**	66	Kevin Gogan			
C	— 53	**Mark Stepnoski**	68	Frank Cornish		70	Dale Hellestrae
RG	— 63	**John Gesek**	66	Kevin Gogan			
RT	— 79	**Erik Williams**	76	Alan Veingrad		66	Kevin Gogan
TE	— 84	**Jay Novacek**	89	Derek Tennell			
WR	— 88	**Michael Irvin**	83	Kelvin Martin		82	Jimmy Smith
QB	— 8	**Troy Aikman**	7	Steve Beuerlein			
RB	— 48	**Daryl Johnston**	34	Tommie Agee			
RB	— 22	**Emmitt Smith**	39	Derrick Gainer			
Defense							
LE	— 92	**Tony Tolbert**	77	Jim Jeffcoat		97	Jimmie Jones
LT	— 75	**Tony Casillas**	97	Jimmie Jones		95	Chad Hennings
RT	— 67	**Russell Maryland**	78	Leon Lett		97	Jimmie Jones
RE	— 94	**Charles Haley**	77	Jim Jeffcoat		78	Leon Lett
LLB	— 57	**Vinson Smith**	98	Godfrey Myles		52	Mickey Pruitt
MLB	— 55	**Robert Jones**	51	Ken Norton		57	Vinson Smith
RLB	— 51	**Ken Norton**	58	Dixon Edwards			
LCB	— 26	**Kevin Smith**	30	Issiac Holt		47	Clayton Holmes
RCB	— 24	**Larry Brown**	26	Kevin Smith		47	Clayton Holmes
SS	— 27	**Thomas Everett**	29	Kenneth Gant		28	Darren Woodson
FS	— 37	**James Washington**	20	Ray Horton		23	Robert Williams
Special Teams							
P	— 4	**Mike Saxon**	7	Steve Beuerlein		2	Lin Elliott
K	— 2	**Lin Elliott**	4	Mike Saxon			
KO	— 2	**Lin Elliott**	4	Mike Saxon			
H	— 7	**Steve Beuerlein**	84	Jay Novacek		4	Mike Saxon
PR	— 83	**Kelvin Martin**	26	Kevin Smith		47	Clayton Holmes
KR	— 83	**Kelvin Martin**	47	Clayton Holmes		26	Kevin Smith
PC	— 70	**Dale Hellestrae**	68	Frank Cornish			
KC	— 70	**Dale Hellestrae**	68	Frank Cornish			

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that's not so... um,

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Starting Lineups

AFC

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OFFENSE

80	James Lofton	WR
69	Will Wolford	LT
51	Jim Ritcher	LG
67	Kent Hull	C
74	Glenn Parker	RG
75	Howard Ballard	RT
88	Pete Metzelaars	TE
83	Andre Reed	WR
12	Jim Kelly	QB
34	Thurman Thomas	RB
35	Carwell Gardner	RB

DEFENSE

90	Phil Hansen	LE
91	Jeff Wright	NT
78	Bruce Smith	RE
53	Marvcus Patton	LOLB
58	Shane Conlan	LILB
97	Cornelius Bennett	RILB
56	Darryl Talley	ROLB
29	James Williams	LCB
37	Nate Odomes	RCB
20	Henry Jones	SS
38	Mark Kelso	FS

NFC

DALLAS COWBOYS

OFFENSE

80	Alvin Harper	WR
71	Mark Tuinei	LT
61	Nate Newton	LG
53	Mark Stepnoski	C
63	John Gesek	RG
79	Erik Williams	RT
84	Jay Novacek	TE
88	Michael Irvin	WR
8	Troy Aikman	QB
48	Daryl Johnston	RB
22	Emmitt Smith	RB

DEFENSE

92	Tony Tolbert	LE
75	Tony Casillas	LT
67	Russell Maryland	RT
94	Charles Haley	RE
57	Vinson Smith	LLB
55	Robert Jones	MLB
51	Ken Norton	RLB
26	Kevin Smith	LCB
24	Larry Brown	RCB
27	Thomas Everett	SS
37	James Washington	FS

NUMERICAL ROSTER

2	Steve Christie	K
7	Gale Gilbert	QB
9	Chris Mohr	P
12	Jim Kelly	QB
14	Frank Reich	QB
20	Henry Jones	S
23	Kenneth Davis	RB
24	Kurt Schulz	S
26	Chris Hale	CB
27	Clifford Hicks	CB
29	James Williams	CB
34	Thurman Thomas	RB
35	Carwell Gardner	RB
37	Nate Odomes	CB
38	Mark Kelso	S
43	Matt Darby	S
47	Kirby Jackson	CB
51	Jim Ritcher	G
53	Marvcus Patton	LB
54	Carlton Bailey	LB
55	Mark Maddox	LB
56	Darryl Talley	LB
58	Shane Conlan	LB
59	Mitch Frerotte	C-G
63	Adam Lingner	C
65	John Davis	G
67	Kent Hull	C
69	Will Wolford	T
70	John Fina	G-T
73	Mike Lodish	NT
74	Glenn Parker	G-T
75	Howard Ballard	T
78	Bruce Smith	DE
80	James Lofton	WR
81	Brad Lamb	WR
82	Don Beebe	WR
83	Andre Reed	WR
84	Keith McKeller	TE
86	Rob Awalt	TE
88	Pete Metzelaars	TE
89	Steve Tasker	WR
90	Phil Hansen	DE
91	Jeff Wright	NT
93	Keith Willis	DE
94	Mark Pike	DE
95	Keith Goganious	LB
97	Cornelius Bennett	LB

2	Lin Elliott	K
4	Mike Saxon	P
7	Steve Beuerlein	QB
8	Troy Aikman	QB
20	Ray Horton	S
22	Emmitt Smith	RB
23	Robert Williams	S
24	Larry Brown	CB
26	Kevin Smith	CB
27	Thomas Everett	S
28	Darren Woodson	S
29	Kenneth Gant	S
30	Issiac Holt	CB
34	Tommie Agee	RB
37	James Washington	S
39	Derrick Gainer	RB
47	Clayton Holmes	CB
48	Daryl Johnston	RB
51	Ken Norton	LB
52	Mickey Pruitt	LB
53	Mark Stepnoski	C
55	Robert Jones	LB
57	Vinson Smith	LB
58	Dixon Edwards	LB
61	Nate Newton	G
63	John Gesek	G
66	Kevin Gogan	G-T
67	Russell Maryland	DT
68	Frank Cornish	C-G
70	Dale Hellestrae	G-C
71	Mark Tuinei	T
75	Tony Casillas	DT
76	Alan Veingrad	G-T
77	Jim Jeffcoat	DE
78	Leon Lett	DT
79	Erik Williams	T
80	Alvin Harper	WR
82	Jimmy Smith	WR
83	Kelvin Martin	WR-KR
84	Jay Novacek	TE
88	Michael Irvin	WR
89	Derek Tennell	TE
92	Tony Tolbert	DE
94	Charles Haley	DE
95	Chad Hennings	DT
97	Jimmie Jones	DT
98	Godfrey Myles	LB

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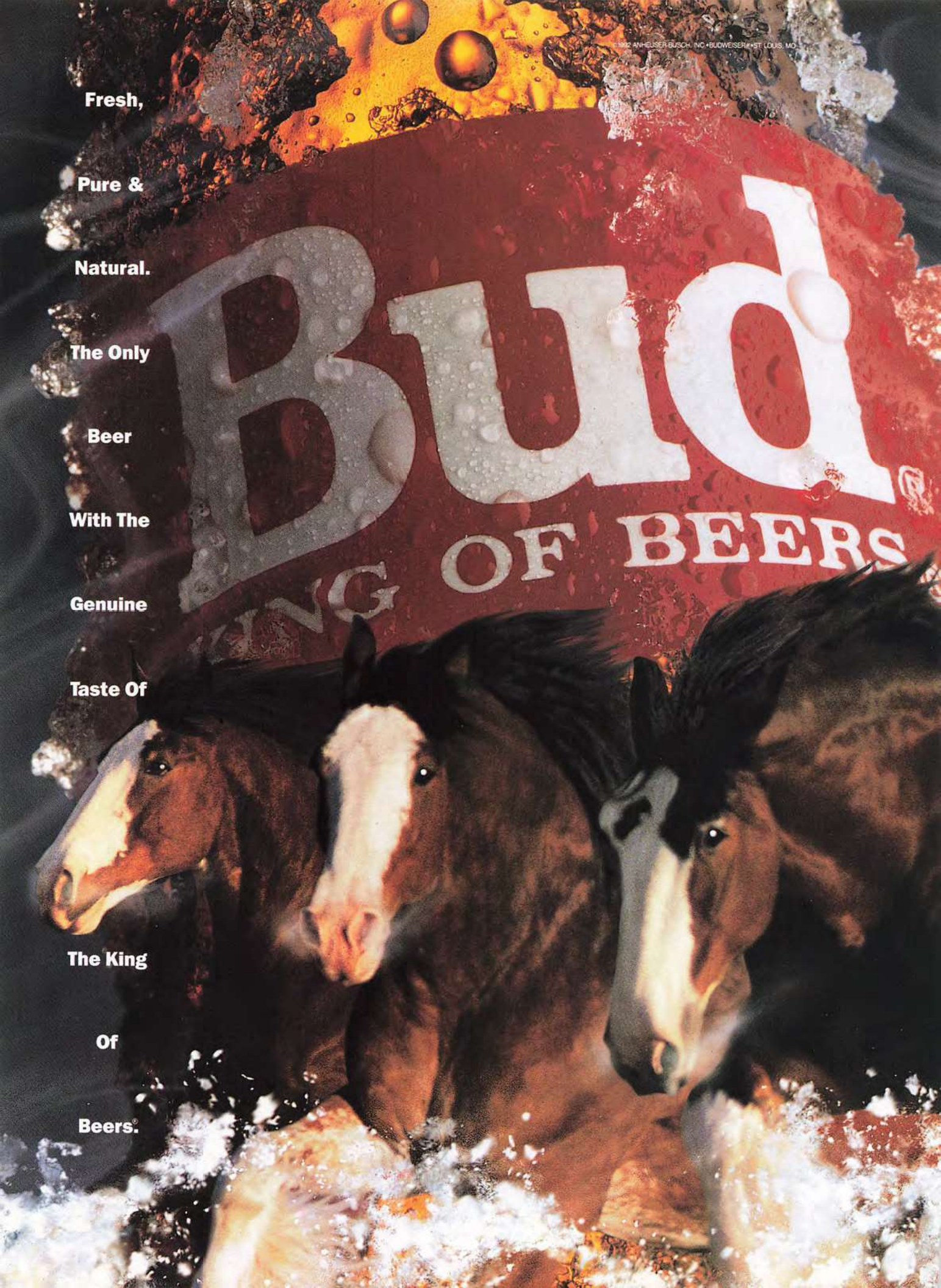
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BUFFALO BILLS

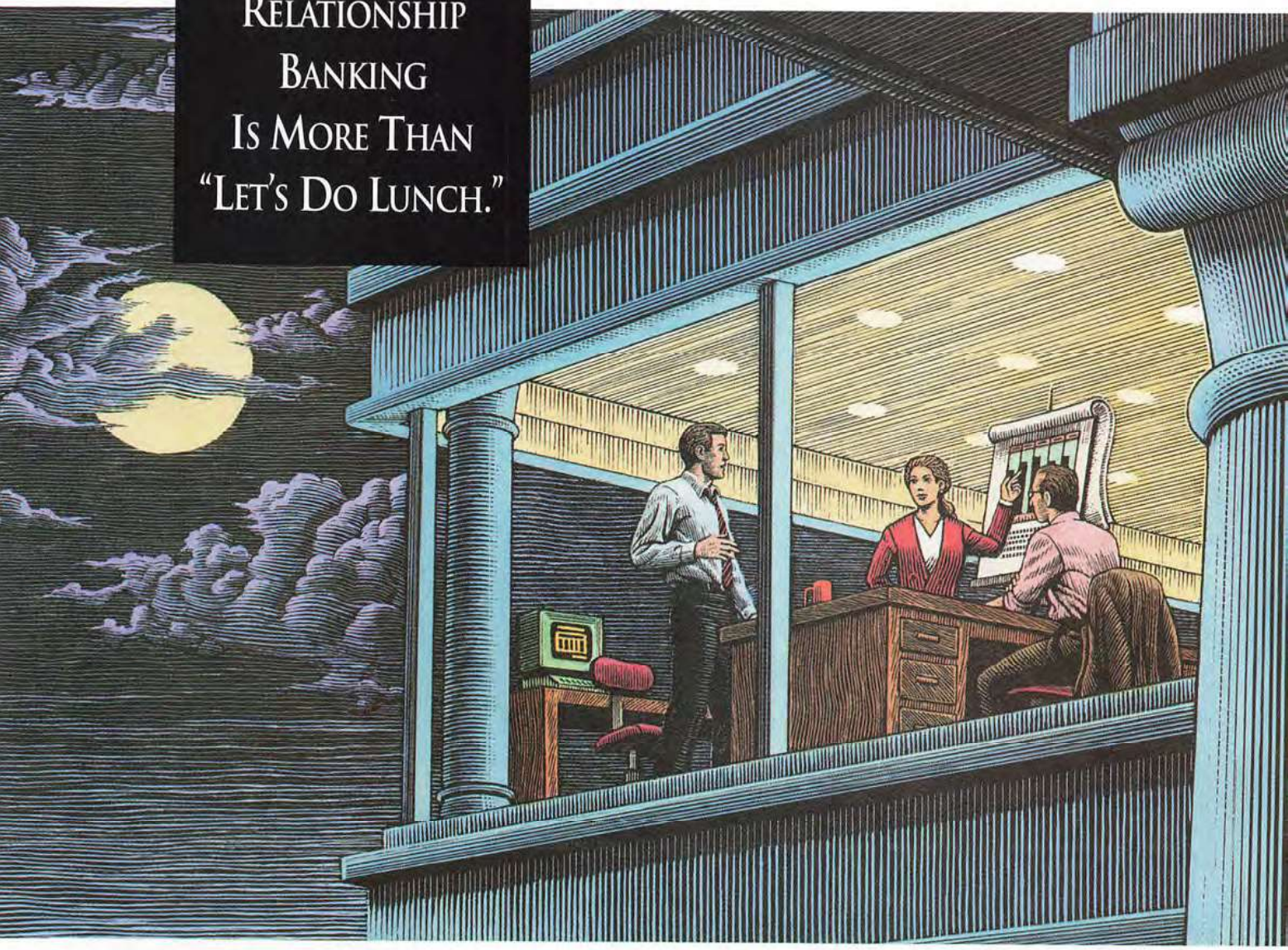
Alphabetical Roster

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	NFL Exp.	College
86	Awalt, Rob	TE	6-5	238	4/9/64	6	San Diego State
54	Bailey, Carlton	LB	6-3	235	12/15/64	5	North Carolina
75	Ballard, Howard	T	6-6	325	11/3/63	5	Alabama A&M
82	Beebe, Don	WR	5-11	184	12/18/64	4	Chadron State
97	Bennett, Cornelius	LB	6-2	236	8/25/66	6	Alabama
2	Christie, Steve	K	6-0	185	11/13/67	3	William & Mary
58	Conlan, Shane	LB	6-3	230	3/4/64	6	Penn State
43	Darby, Matt	S	6-1	200	11/19/68	R	UCLA
65	Davis, John	G	6-4	311	8/22/65	6	Georgia Tech
23	Davis, Kenneth	RB	5-10	208	4/16/62	7	Texas Christian
70	Fina, John	G-T	6-4	282	3/11/69	R	Arizona
59	Frerotte, Mitch	C-G	6-3	285	3/30/65	4	Penn State
35	Gardner, Carwell	RB	6-2	232	11/27/66	3	Louisville
7	Gilbert, Gale	QB	6-3	210	12/20/61	6	California
95	Goganious, Keith	LB	6-2	237	12/7/68	R	Penn State
26	Hale, Chris	CB	5-7	170	1/4/66	4	USC
90	Hansen, Phil	DE	6-5	275	5/20/68	2	North Dakota State
27	Hicks, Clifford	CB	5-10	188	8/18/64	6	Oregon
67	Hull, Kent	C	6-5	278	1/13/61	7	Mississippi State
47	Jackson, Kirby	CB	5-10	180	2/2/65	6	Mississippi State
20	Jones, Henry	S	5-11	197	12/29/67	2	Illinois
12	Kelly, Jim	QB	6-3	218	2/14/60	7	Miami
38	Kelso, Mark	S	5-11	185	7/23/63	7	William & Mary
81	Lamb, Brad	WR	5-10	171	10/7/67	1	Anderson (IN)
63	Lingner, Adam	C	6-4	268	11/2/60	10	Illinois
73	Lodish, Mike	NT	6-3	272	8/11/67	3	UCLA
80	Lofton, James	WR	6-3	190	7/5/56	15	Stanford
55	Maddox, Mark	LB	6-1	233	3/23/68	1	Northern Michigan
84	McKeller, Keith	TE	6-4	245	7/9/64	5	Jacksonville State
88	Metzelaars, Pete	TE	6-7	250	5/24/60	11	Wabash
9	Mohr, Chris	P	6-5	215	5/11/66	3	Alabama
37	Odomes, Nate	CB	5-10	188	8/25/65	6	Wisconsin
74	Parker, Glenn	G-T	6-5	305	4/22/66	3	Arizona
53	Patton, Marvcus	LB	6-2	225	5/1/67	3	UCLA
94	Pike, Mark	DE	6-4	272	12/27/63	6	Georgia Tech
83	Reed, Andre	WR	6-2	190	1/29/64	8	Kutztown State
14	Reich, Frank	QB	6-4	210	12/4/61	8	Maryland
51	Ritcher, Jim	G	6-3	273	5/21/58	13	North Carolina State
24	Schulz, Kurt	S	6-1	206	12/12/68	R	Eastern Washington
78	Smith, Bruce	DE	6-4	273	6/18/63	8	Virginia Tech
56	Talley, Darryl	LB	6-4	235	7/10/60	10	West Virginia
89	Tasker, Steve	WR	5-9	183	4/10/62	8	Northwestern
34	Thomas, Thurman	RB	5-10	198	5/16/66	5	Oklahoma State
29	Williams, James	CB	5-10	178	3/30/67	3	Fresno State
93	Willis, Keith	DE	6-1	263	7/29/59	10	Northeastern
69	Wolford, Will	T	6-5	297	5/18/64	7	Vanderbilt
91	Wright, Jeff	NT	6-3	270	6/13/63	5	Central Missouri St.

Depth Chart

Offense					
WR	**80 James Lofton**	82	Don Beebe		
LT	**69 Will Wolford**	70	John Fina		
LG	**51 Jim Ritcher**	70	John Fina		
C	**67 Kent Hull**	59	Mitch Frerotte		
RG	**74 Glenn Parker**	59	Mitch Frerotte	65	John Davis
RT	**75 Howard Ballard**	74	Glenn Parker		
TE	**88 Pete Metzelaars**	84	Keith McKeller	86	Rob Awalt
WR	**83 Andre Reed**	81	Brad Lamb	89	Steve Tasker
QB	**12 Jim Kelly**	14	Frank Reich	7	Gale Gilbert
RB	**34 Thurman Thomas**	23	Kenneth Davis		
RB	**35 Carwell Gardner**	23	Kenneth Davis		
Defense					
LE	**90 Phil Hansen**	93	Keith Willis		
NT	**91 Jeff Wright**	73	Mike Lodish		
RE	**78 Bruce Smith**	94	Mark Pike		
LOLB	**53 Marvcus Patton**	97	Cornelius Bennett		
LILB	**58 Shane Conlan**	55	Mark Maddox		
RILB	**97 Cornelius Bennett**	54	Carlton Bailey		
ROLB	**56 Darryl Talley**	95	Keith Goganious		
LCB	**29 James Williams**	47	Kirby Jackson		
RCB	**37 Nate Odomes**	27	Clifford Hicks	26	Chris Hale
SS	**20 Henry Jones**	43	Matt Darby		
FS	**38 Mark Kelso**	24	Kurt Schulz		
Special Teams					
P	**9 Chris Mohr**				
K	**2 Steve Christie**				
KO	**2 Steve Christie**				
H	**14 Frank Reich**	9	Chris Mohr	7	Gale Gilbert
PR	**27 Clifford Hicks**	26	Chris Hale		
KR	**23 Kenneth Davis**	81	Brad Lamb		
PC	**63 Adam Lingner**	90	Phil Hansen	67	Kent Hull
KC	**63 Adam Lingner**	90	Phil Hansen	67	Kent Hull

Relationship Banking Is More Than "Let's Do Lunch."



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We apply our strengths to propel smart ideas from concept to market; to raise corporate funds or invest them; to help growing companies find new ways to grow; to multiply personal assets; to create ever more responsive and cost-efficient operating services.

The new Chemical is first in primary relationships with U.S. corporations and first in serving middle market companies. We have a relationship with one out of every three households in the metropolitan New York market, and we're lead bank to one of every three small companies, too.

In short, we use all our resources to build long-term relationships of trust, one successful transaction after another.

CHEMICAL

INTELLECTUAL CURRENCY. CAPITAL STRENGTH.℠

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BILLS PLAYERS AND STAFF

Ralph C. Wilson, Jr.
President & Owner

Bill Polian
Vice President/GM

Linda Bogdan
Corporate Vice President

Marv Levy
Vice President/Head Coach

Bill Munson
Asst. GM/Business Operations

Bob Ferguson
Asst. GM/Pro Personnel

John Butler
Director of Player Personnel

Denny Lynch
Director of Public Relations

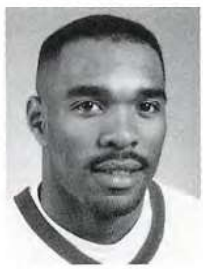
2 Steve Christie
Kicker

7 Gale Gilbert
Quarterback

9 Chris Mohr
Punter

12 Jim Kelly
Quarterback

14 Frank Reich
Quarterback



20 Henry Jones
Safety

23 Kenneth Davis
Running Back

24 Kurt Schulz
Safety

26 Chris Hale
Cornerback

27 Clifford Hicks
Cornerback

29 James Williams
Cornerback

34 Thurman Thomas
Running Back

35 Carwell Gardner
Running Back

37 Nate Odomes
Cornerback

38 Mark Kelso
Safety

43 Matt Darby
Safety

47 Kirby Jackson
Cornerback

51 Jim Ritcher
Guard

53 Marvcus Patton
Linebacker

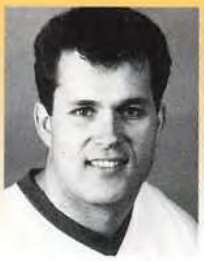
54 Carlton Bailey
Linebacker

55 Mark Maddox
Linebacker

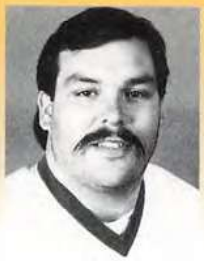
56 Darryl Talley
Linebacker

58 Shane Conlan
Linebacker

59 Mitch Frerotte
Center–Guard



63 Adam Lingner
Center



65 John Davis
Guard

67 Kent Hull
Center

69 Will Wolford
Tackle

70 John Fina
Guard-Tackle

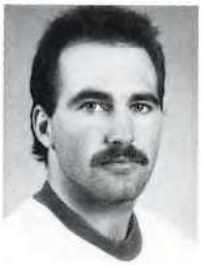
73 Mike Lodish
Nose Tackle

74 Glenn Parker
Guard-Tackle

75 Howard Ballard
Tackle

78 Bruce Smith
Defensive End

80 James Lofton
Wide Receiver

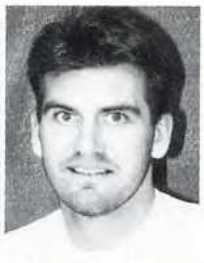


81 Brad Lamb
Wide Receiver

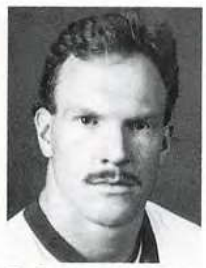
82 Don Beebe
Wide Receiver

83 Andre Reed
Wide Receiver

84 Keith McKeller
Tight End



86 Rob Awalt
Tight End



88 Pete Metzelaars
Tight End

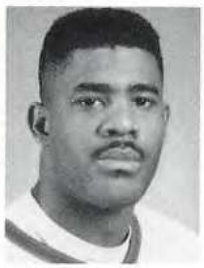
89 Steve Tasker
Wide Receiver

90 Phil Hansen
Defensive End

91 Jeff Wright
Nose Tackle

93 Keith Willis
Defensive End

94 Mark Pike
Defensive End



95 Keith Goganious
Linebacker

97 Cornelius Bennett
Linebacker

Tom Bresnahan
Assistant Coach

Walt Corey
Assistant Coach

Bruce DeHaven
Assistant Coach

Charlie Joiner
Assistant Coach

Rusty Jones
Assistant Coach

Don Lawrence
Assistant Coach

Chuck Lester
Assistant Coach

Elijah Pitts
Assistant Coach

Dick Roach
Assistant Coach

Dan Sekanovich
Assistant Coach

Jim Shofner
Assistant Coach

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From sea to shining sea, America is a great place to visit. That's why Sony invented 8mm Handycam® camcorders and videocassettes: so you could travel light. See the sights. And always save your memories.

Sony 8mm tape is specially created to get the most out of your 8mm camcorder. From the spectacular colors of nature, to the dramatic excitement of sports. So whenever you visit the great outdoors, carry the cassettes that help you bring home all its beauty.

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LORE OF THE RINGS

Super Bowl I

Super Bowl II

Super Bowl III

Super Bowl IV

Super Bowl V

Super Bowl VI

Super Bowl VII

Super Bowl VIII

Super Bowl IX

Super Bowl X

Super Bowl XI

Super Bowl XII

Super Bowl XIII

Super Bowl XIV

Super Bowl XV

Super Bowl XVI

Super Bowl XVII

Super Bowl XVIII

Super Bowl XIX

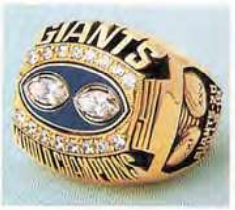
Super Bowl XX

Super Bowl XXI

Super Bowl XXII

Super Bowl XXIII

Super Bowl XXIV

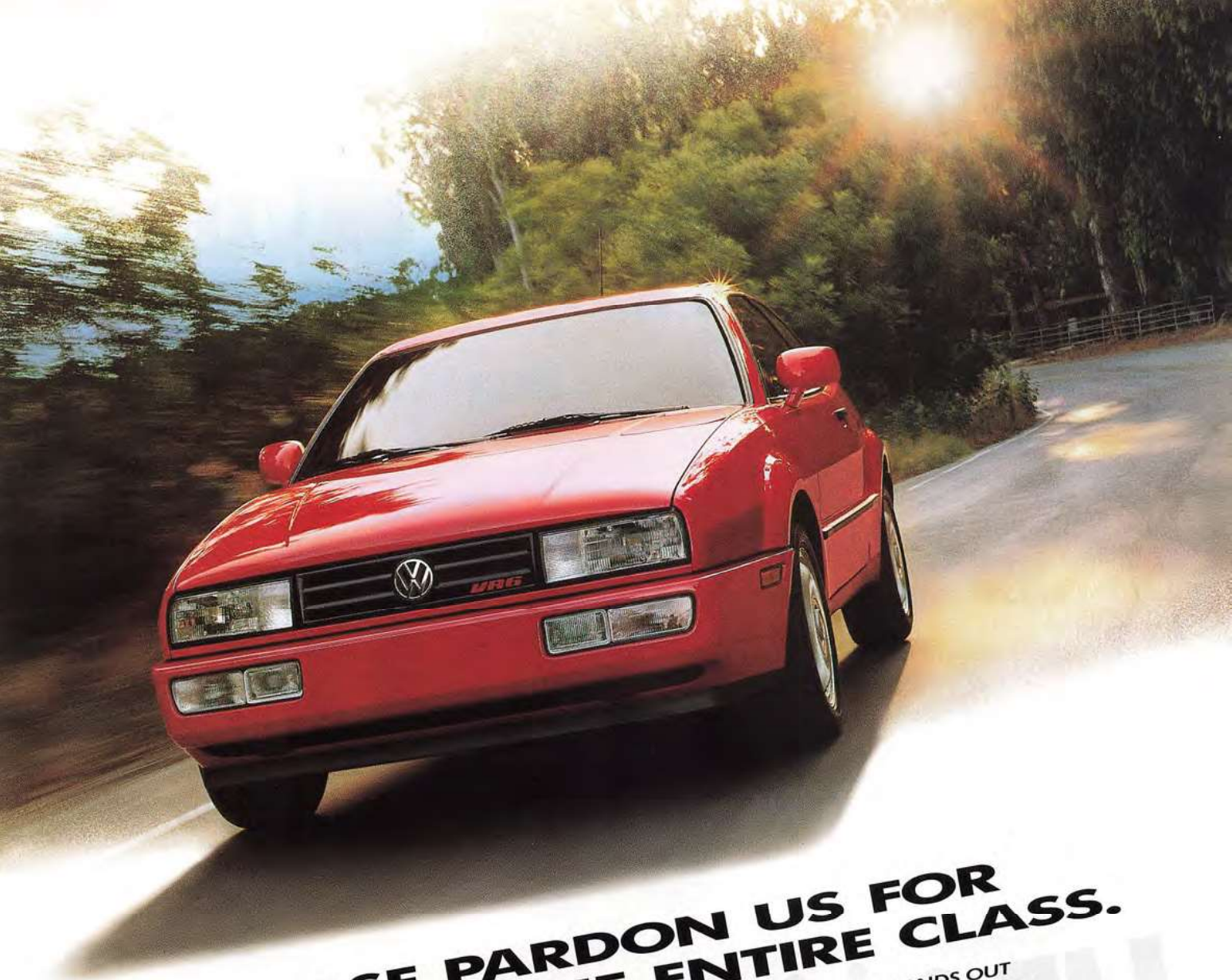


Super Bowl XXV

The Redskins' Super Bowl XXVI championship ring features two feathers from the club logo. Each feather includes three large diamonds, symbolizing Washington's three Super Bowl titles.

26 YEARS OF SUPER BOWLS

Game	Date	Site	Attendance	Winner	Loser
I	1-15-67	Los Angeles	61,946	Green Bay (NFL) 35	Kansas City (AFL) 10
II	1-14-68	Miami	75,546	Green Bay (NFL) 33	Oakland (AFL) 10
III	1-12-69	Miami	75,389	New York Jets (AFL) 16	Baltimore (NFL) 7
IV	1-11-70	New Orleans	80,562	Kansas City (AFL) 23	Minnesota (NFL) 7
V	1-17-71	Miami	79,204	Baltimore (AFC) 16	Dallas (NFC) 13
VI	1-16-72	New Orleans	81,023	Dallas (NFC) 24	Miami (AFC) 3
VII	1-14-73	Los Angeles	90,182	Miami (AFC) 14	Washington (NFC) 7
VIII	1-13-74	Houston	71,882	Miami (AFC) 24	Minnesota (NFC) 7
IX	1-12-75	New Orleans	80,997	Pittsburgh (AFC) 16	Minnesota (NFC) 6
X	1-18-76	Miami	80,187	Pittsburgh (AFC) 21	Dallas (NFC) 17
XI	1- 9-77	Pasadena	103,438	Oakland (AFC) 32	Minnesota (NFC) 14
XII	1-15-78	New Orleans	75,583	Dallas (NFC) 27	Denver (AFC) 10
XIII	1-21-79	Miami	79,484	Pittsburgh (AFC) 35	Dallas (NFC) 31
XIV	1-20-80	Pasadena	103,985	Pittsburgh (AFC) 31	Los Angeles (NFC) 19
XV	1-25-81	New Orleans	76,135	Oakland (AFC) 27	Philadelphia (NFC) 10
XVI	1-24-82	Pontiac	81,270	San Francisco (NFC) 26	Cincinnati (AFC) 21
XVII	1-30-83	Pasadena	103,667	Washington (NFC) 27	Miami (AFC) 17
XVIII	1-22-84	Tampa	72,920	Los Angeles Raiders (AFC) 38	Washington (NFC) 9
XIX	1-20-85	Stanford	84,059	San Francisco (NFC) 38	Miami (AFC) 16
XX	1-26-86	New Orleans	73,818	Chicago (NFC) 46	New England (AFC) 10
XXI	1-25-87	Pasadena	101,063	New York Giants (NFC) 39	Denver (AFC) 20
XXII	1-31-88	San Diego	73,302	Washington (NFC) 42	Denver (AFC) 10
XXIII	1-22-89	Miami	75,129	San Francisco (NFC) 20	Cincinnati (AFC) 16
XXIV	1-28-90	New Orleans	72,919	San Francisco (NFC) 55	Denver (AFC) 10
XXV	1-27-91	Tampa	73,813	New York Giants (NFC) 20	Buffalo (AFC) 19
XXVI	1-26-92	Minneapolis	63,130	Washington (NFC) 37	Buffalo (AFC) 24



PLEASE PARDON US FOR DISRUPTING THE ENTIRE CLASS.

"WE'VE DRIVEN AN AFFORDABLE PORSCHE... CORRADO SLC WITH THE VR6 ENGINE!"
Automobile Magazine

The test results are in. 0-60 in 6.8 seconds. 178 hp at 5800 rpm. All for just over half the price of a Porsche 968.* No wonder Corrado SLC is upsetting the rest of its class.

For here is the fastest Volkswagen ever built—140 mph top-end on the Autobahn. That's right, a 140 mph Volkswagen. Somewhere the Beetle is smiling. So are wide-eyed drivers who've felt the thrust of Corrado SLC's new, world-first 2.8-liter in-line V-6.

"THE SLC NOW THREATENS TO TROUNCE THE CLASS."
Car and Driver

And, in the Volkswagen way, all this power is ingeniously directed right where it belongs—to the road. Our sophisticated new traction control system regulates wheel spin to get you underway swiftly. And safely. Standard ABS stops you in the same manner. We've also modified the suspension—we call it Plus-Axle—to all but eliminate torque steer. So you don't sacrifice handling and ride in the pursuit of performance.

"THE SLC STANDS OUT FROM THE CROWD LIKE A PAIR OF LEVI'S 501S IN A SEA OF TRIPLE-KNIT!"
Motor Trend

The biggest news? Corrado SLC is powerful proof of where Volkswagen is headed. Fast. You'll find its revolutionary in-line V-6, and other engineering triumphs, at the heart of Volkswagen vehicles just down the road. And at the soul of the unique driving experience we call Fahrvergnügen.™

Drive the new Corrado SLC at your Volkswagen dealer or call 1-800-444-8987. The rest of the class will soon be dismissed.

CORRADO SLC VR6

*Base MSRP comparison; equipment levels vary.
Volkswagen urges you to obey all traffic laws. ©1992 Volkswagen

Seat belts save lives. Don't drink and drive.

Thanks, Teach!

NFL PLAYERS HAVE HEROES, TOO

The NFL Teacher of the Month Award gives pro football players a chance to thank the men and women who inspired them in the classroom as youngsters.

Each year, NFL players nominate their former school teachers...and every month during the regular season one of these educators is honored as the NFL Teacher of the Month.

Presented here are the four monthly winners from 1992 and their former students who nominated them. Each teacher received a $2,500 grant from the NFL, and the teacher's school was presented a $5,000 scholarship fund.

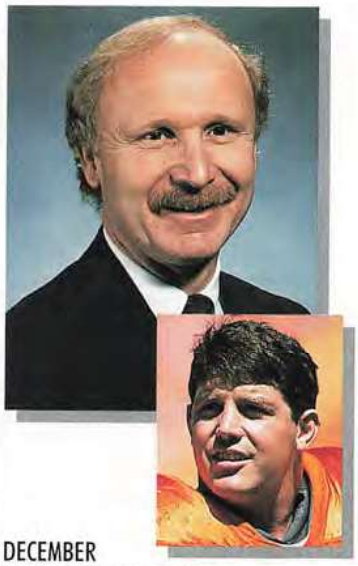
Dora Carson (right), who was nominated by Keith Byars of the Philadelphia Eagles, is the 1992 NFL Teacher of the Year. Ms. Carson will be honored at the AFC-NFC Pro Bowl in Honolulu, Hawaii, where she will be presented a $5,000 grant. Her school, Dunbar High in Dayton, Ohio, will receive a $10,000 scholarship fund.

Congratulations from the National Football League to all of America's outstanding teachers.

SEPTEMBER
Teacher: Gary Drohman
Lincoln High School
Manitowac, WI
Player: Don Davey, DE
Green Bay Packers

OCTOBER
Teacher: Harriett Adderley
Rush Elementary School
Cinnaminson, NJ
Player: Andre Collins, LB
Washington Redskins

NOVEMBER
Teacher: Stephanie Henderson
Page High School
Greensboro, NC
Player: Haywood Jeffires, WR
Houston Oilers



DECEMBER
Teacher: David LaBorde
Campbellsport High School
Campbellsport, WI
Player: Keith Kartz, C
Denver Broncos

The NFL Teacher of the Month Award NFL Saluting Excellence in Education

THE PRO LINE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NFL PRO LINE COLLECTION

JANUARY 1993 · NUMBER 1 · VOLUME 1

INSIDE:

STORIES BEHIND THE MAKING OF THE PRO LINE COLLECTION

MEET THE PRO LINE WINNERS

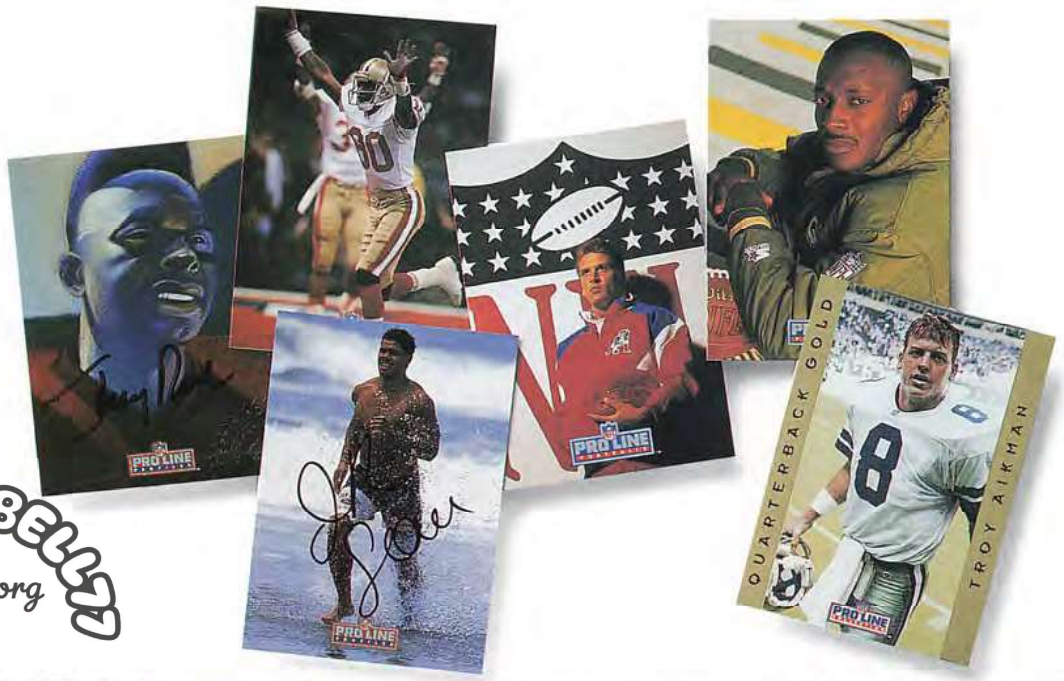
SUPERMATCH II
COLLECT PRO LINE CARDS, WIN ONE OF THREE EXCITING GRAND PRIZES

STEVE YOUNG UP CLOSE

49ERS' QUARTERBACK IS FIRST '93 PROFILES SUBJECT

NFL PRO LINE COLLECTION™

The Pro Line Collection: A Brief Who's Who and What's What



RINGTHEBELL71 on Archive.org

Q. *What is the NFL Pro Line Collection?*

A. The Pro Line Collection began in 1991 with a series of advertising photographs involving NFL players and coaches. Those evolved into Pro Line Portraits cards, which had 300 Portraits, 7 NFL Spirit Collectibles, 2 Special Collectibles, and authentic autograph cards. The next logical step to this living set was to add Pro Line Profiles—a separate but related set of cards. In 1992, each pack of Pro Line cards contained 9 Profiles and 3 Portraits. The ratio will be the same in 1993.

Q. *What are Pro Line Profiles?*

A. Profiles are 9 cards each on the greatest names in the game. For 1992, we sent award-winning photographers all over the nation to capture 55 stars as you have never seen them before. Then we got childhood, high school, and college photos, and we searched NFL Properties' extensive photo files for the best action photos. At the same time, we conducted exclusive personal interviews. We will repeat that successful concept this year with new names.

Q. *How do the Profiles fit into the 1992 NFL Pro Line Collection?*

A. These 495 cards were added to 194 all-new Portraits and 9 checklists to make a total of 698 cards. Then we included a hot new Pro Line Collection special called Quarterback Gold—18 gold-foil cards of the game's finest quarterbacks. All of the Pro Line cards then were shuffled and put randomly in packs.

Q. *Why are there 9 Profiles cards for each person?*

A. So collectors can get the complete story in a 9-pocket sheet. In 1992, the sets offered remarkable insights—in words and pictures—into pro football's superstars.

Q. *Explain Pro Line's autograph cards.*

A. Participants in Portraits and Profiles signed cards. Our goal is to have one autograph card in every box. In the first two years of the Pro Line Collection, we included more than 750,000 authentic autograph cards in the product.

Q. *So what is the Pro Line Collection plan in 1993?*

A. The "living set" concept of the Pro Line Collection will continue. The Portraits will include all-new subjects, beginning with card 468. Some 75 to 90 new Portraits will be added. In addition, about 50 big names will be revealed in all-new 9-card Profiles. There also will be selected Spirit cards, Throwback cards, Quarterback Gold cards, and other surprises.

Q. *How about autographs?*

A. We plan to aim for the same goal as 1992—an average of one autograph per box. We will ask each participant to sign a limited number of cards. The great demand for autograph cards has made them one of the Pro Line Collection's most attractive features.

NFL PRO LINE COLLECTION™

THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF STORIES IN THE PRO LINE COLLECTION
Here Are a Few of Them...

Putting together the 1992 NFL Pro Line Collection required thousands of airline miles, hundreds of rental cars, and countless hotels. It was a roller coaster ride that spanned more than three months. It was, in fact, both monumental and memorable.

"I remember when we photographed Jack Kemp [Secretary of Housing and Urban Development] in Vail, Colorado," says Peter Read Miller, one of three photographers used on the Profiles project. "In a blinding snowstorm, we arrived in Vail and called Secretary Kemp. He asked us to make the photo shoot go as quickly as possible so he could get in some skiing.

"My assistant and I drove to where Kemp was staying and went to knock on the door. We left the car running to keep it warm, but we didn't realize, until a couple of seconds had passed, that the keys were locked in the car. How embarrassing.

JACK AND JEFF KEMP ON THE SKI SLOPES OF VAIL, COLORADO

"Luckily, I had left my window cracked a little. We were freezing, but we looked around for something to reach the lock. We finally settled on one of the wiper blades, and after tearing it from its hinges, we used the wiper to flip the lock. So much for being late. The photo shoot went as planned."

In 1991, NFL Properties sought a vehicle that would bring NFL personalities closer to fans. The goal was to uncover the total person—not just the football side—behind the facemask and equipment. NFL Properties decided that an innovative trading card series was the answer. Thus, NFL Pro Line Portraits was launched.

In 1992, the concept was expanded to include 55 nine-card Profiles, plus nearly 200 new Portraits, and other special subsets. The result was the NFL Pro Line Collection, a mind-boggling set of more than 700 of the most personal trading cards ever produced.

Even more is in store for 1993. The upcoming edition of the Pro Line Collection will include dozens of all-new nine-card Profiles, plus a continuation of the Portraits series. The first nine-card Profile for 1993 is of 49ers star quarterback Steve Young (see cover for a preview of the fronts of cards 1, 7, and 9). An actual card from Young's Profile is attached to this first edition of *The Pro Line*.

The main cover photo (card 9) is a portrait of Young that brings together his current career as a football player with his possible future career as a lawyer. When asked if he may someday represent himself in contract negotiations, Young replied, "I'm sure Leigh Steinberg [Young's agent and an attorney himself] doesn't want me to." During Young's initial photo shoot in San Francisco (some of the photos in Young's set were taken at BYU on a day off late in the NFL season), teammates gave him a little good-natured ribbing about being a legal scholar. "If you follow strict legal procedures like you improvise on the field, I'll be doing prison time for a parking ticket," said one teammate.

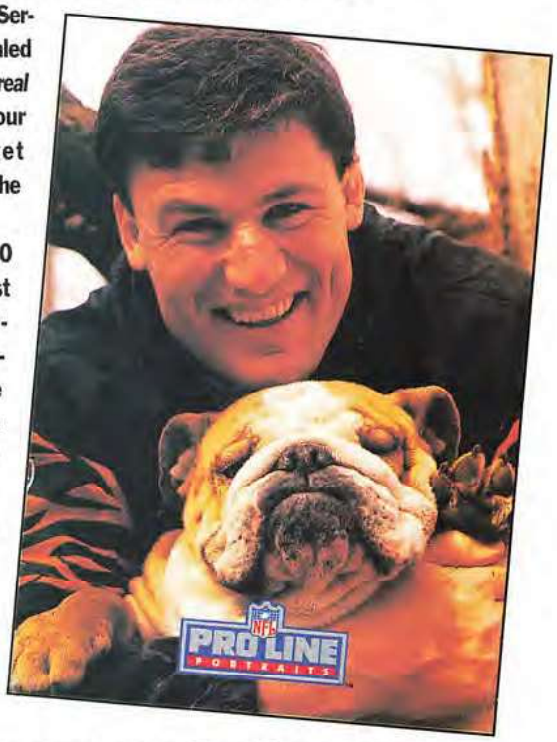
The memorable experience of putting together the 1992 Pro Line Collection will serve as a model for future Pro Line Collection endeavors.

"Photographing [Redskins head coach] Joe Gibbs at his fund raiser for the boys home [Youth for Tomorrow], which he helped found, was difficult," Miller says. "We arrived at the gala and set up for the photo in a hallway before many of the guests arrived.

"President Bush was supposed to attend so the Secret Service was going to be there. After we finished setting up, I stepped outside for a moment with my assistant. When we tried to return, the Secret Service already had sealed off the area. It was a *real* struggle to get to our equipment and get ready for Gibbs and the boys."

More than 200 of the NFL's biggest names were interviewed and photographed for the 1992 NFL Pro Line Collection, and there were numerous exciting and unusual moments along the way.

Animals lent an interesting twist to many of the pho-



BENGALS NOSE TACKLE TIM KRUMRIE WITH PET BULLDOG

continued on page 6

PLAY SUPERMATCH II! THE MOST PERSONAL PRO FOOTBALL CARDS EVER CREATED CAN SEND YOU ON AN NFL ADVENTURE!

Collect Pro Line Cards...Earn a Chance to Win One of Three Great NFL Prizes

FIRST GRAND PRIZE

Collect the *three* Quarterback Gold cards featured in the row here and on the opposite page and become part of a drawing that could send you and a companion to the Quarterback Challenge at a major Florida resort location in April, 1993.

SECOND GRAND PRIZE

Collect the *three* certified authentic autograph cards in the row here and on the opposite page and become part of a drawing that could send you and a companion to the Pro Bowl at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu, Hawaii, on February 6, 1994.

THIRD GRAND PRIZE

Collect the *three* Rookie Gold cards featured in the row here and on the opposite page and become part of a drawing that could send you and a companion to the NFL Draft in New York on April 25-26, 1993.

OFFICIAL RULES

THREE WAYS TO WIN. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.

QUARTERBACK GOLD

1. HERE'S HOW IT WORKS: Buy NFL Pro Line Collection cards. If you collect the three NFL Pro Line QB Gold Cards featured on the top row of the game card, send them, along with five (5) Pro Line Collection wrappers, and you could win a trip for two to the 1993 QB Challenge!

2. THE QB GOLD PRIZE is a trip for two to the 1993 QB Challenge. Trip will include round-trip coach air transportation from the major gateway city nearest the winner's residence, hotel accommodations based on double occupancy, and admission to the 1993 QB Challenge. Approximate retail value $3,000.

3. ODDS OF WINNING WILL DEPEND ON THE NUMBER OF VERIFIED AND AUTHENTIC ENTRIES RECEIVED. ODDS OF HAVING A VERIFIED ENTRY ARE 1:8,424. ONE QB GOLD PRIZE WILL BE AWARDED. IF MORE THAN ONE VERIFIED ENTRY IS RECEIVED, WINNER WILL BE DETERMINED BY RANDOM DRAWING AMONG ALL VERIFIED ENTRIES.
SECOND CHANCE SWEEPSTAKES: If no verified QB Gold winners are received, a winner will be chosen by random drawing among all second-chance entrants. To enter the Second Chance Sweepstakes, write your name, address, day and evening telephone numbers on a 3x5 card and send to: QB Gold Second Chance Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 7628, Charlotte, NC 28241. Odds of being selected as a QB Gold Second Chance Sweepstakes winner will depend on the number of entries received.

4. HERE'S HOW TO CLAIM YOUR QB GOLD PRIZE: Send in the three NFL Pro Line QB Gold Cards featured along with five (5) Pro Line Collection wrappers to: QB Gold Supermatch II, P.O. Box 7089, Charlotte, NC 28241. Please be sure to package your cards so that damage will not occur in shipping. Entries should be sent via CERTIFIED OR REGISTERED MAIL. Deadline for entries is March 15, 1993. Not responsible for lost, damaged, or misdirected mail. Entries will be verified according to the accuracy of the game match. Decisions of the Independent Judging Agency will be final. All cards will be returned after May 31, 1993 and proof of acceptance and delivery will be used.

ROOKIE GOLD

1. HERE'S HOW IT WORKS: Buy NFL Pro Line Collection Jumbo Packs. If you collect the three NFL Pro Line Rookie Gold Cards featured, send them, along with five (5) Pro Line Collection wrappers, and you could win a trip for two to the 1993 NFL Draft Selection!

2. THE ROOKIE GOLD PRIZE is a trip for two to the 1993 NFL Draft Selection. Trip will include round-trip coach air transportation from the major gateway city nearest the winner's residence, hotel accommodations based on double occupancy, and admission to the 1993 NFL Draft Selection. Approximate retail value $2,500.

3. ODDS OF WINNING WILL DEPEND ON THE NUMBER OF VERIFIED AND AUTHENTIC ENTRIES RECEIVED. ODDS OF HAVING A VERIFIED ENTRY ARE 1:1,764. ONE ROOKIE GOLD PRIZE WILL BE AWARDED. IF MORE THAN ONE VERIFIED ENTRY IS RECEIVED, WINNER WILL BE DETERMINED BY RANDOM DRAWING AMONG ALL VERIFIED ENTRIES.
SECOND CHANCE SWEEPSTAKES: If no verified Rookie Gold winners are received, a winner will be chosen by random drawing among all second-chance entrants. To enter the Second Chance Sweepstakes, write your name, address, day and evening telephone numbers on a 3x5 card and send to: Rookie Gold Second Chance Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 7628, Charlotte, NC 28241. Odds of being selected as a Rookie Gold Second Chance Sweepstakes winner will depend on the number of entries received.

4. HERE'S HOW TO CLAIM YOUR ROOKIE GOLD PRIZE: Send in the three NFL Pro Line Rookie Gold Cards featured along with five (5) Pro Line Collection wrappers to: Rookie Gold Supermatch II, P.O. Box 7089, Charlotte, NC 28241. Please be sure to package your cards so that damage will not occur in shipping. Entries should be sent via CERTIFIED OR REGISTERED MAIL. Deadline for entries is March 15, 1993. Not responsible for lost, damaged, or misdirected mail. Entries will be verified according to the accuracy of the game match. Decisions of the Independent Judging Agency will be final. All cards will be returned after May 31, 1993 and proof of acceptance and delivery will be used.

CERTIFIED AUTHENTIC AUTOGRAPH

1. HERE'S HOW IT WORKS: Buy NFL Pro Line Collection Cards. If you collect the three NFL Pro Line Cards featured on the middle row of the game card, and each of them has a Certified Authentic Autograph, send them, along with five (5) Pro Line Collection wrappers, and you could win a trip for two to the 1994 Pro Bowl!

2. THE CERTIFIED AUTHENTIC AUTOGRAPH PRIZE is a trip for two to the 1994 Pro Bowl. Trip will include round-trip coach air transportation from the major gateway city nearest the winner's residence, hotel accommodations based on double occupancy, and admission to the 1994 Pro Bowl. Approximate retail value $4,000.

3. ODDS OF WINNING WILL DEPEND ON THE NUMBER OF VERIFIED AND AUTHENTIC ENTRIES RECEIVED. ODDS OF HAVING A VERIFIED ENTRY ARE 1:88,679. ONE CERTIFIED AUTHENTIC AUTOGRAPH PRIZE WILL BE AWARDED. IF MORE THAN ONE VERIFIED ENTRY IS RECEIVED, WINNER WILL BE DETERMINED BY RANDOM DRAWING AMONG ALL VERIFIED ENTRIES.
SECOND CHANCE SWEEPSTAKES: If no verified Certified Authentic Autograph winners are received, a winner will be chosen by random drawing among all second-chance entrants. To enter the Second Chance Sweepstakes, write your name, address, day and evening telephone numbers on a 3x5 card and send to: Certified Authentic Autograph Second Chance Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 7628, Charlotte, NC 28241. Odds of being selected as a Certified Authentic Autograph Second Chance Sweepstakes winner will depend on the number of entries received.

4. HERE'S HOW TO CLAIM YOUR CERTIFIED AUTHENTIC AUTOGRAPH PRIZE: Send in the three NFL Pro Line Cards featured, signed by the player and certified authentic, along with five (5) Pro Line Collection wrappers to: Authentic Autograph Supermatch II, P.O. Box 7089, Charlotte, NC 28241. Please be sure to package your cards so that damage will not occur in shipping. Entries should be sent via CERTIFIED OR REGISTERED MAIL. Deadline for entries is June 30, 1993. Not responsible for lost, damaged, or misdirected mail. Entries will be verified according to the accuracy of the game match. Decisions of the Independent Judging Agency will be final. All cards will be returned after August 31, 1993 and proof of acceptance and delivery will be used.

GENERAL RULES

1. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY: For a free opportunity to win QB Gold, Certified Authentic Autograph or Rookie Gold Card prizes, send your name, complete address, along with day and evening telephone numbers, and self-addressed, stamped envelope with postage totaling 52¢, except where prohibited by law, to SUPER BOWL SUPERMATCH FREE OPPORTUNITY, P.O. Box 7322 Charlotte, NC 28241. No metered postage accepted. The odds of winning are the same as stated for each prize level. Limit one free opportunity request per outer mailing envelope. Requests for a free opportunity to win must be received by March 1, 1993.

2. VERIFICATION: All entries are subject to verification as to authenticity and correct game card match. No mechanically reproduced game cards will permitted. Not responsible for late, misdirected, or damaged entries not forwarded in time for random drawings, if necessary. Any entries that have been duplicated, tampered with, or have incorrect match to the game board will be considered null and void. NFL Properties, its agencies, respective agents, and distributors shall not have any liability. All entries will be returned by May 31, 1993 for the QB Gold and Rookie Gold promotion, and by August 31, 1993 for the Certified Authentic Autograph promotion. Proof of delivery method will be used.

3. DRAWINGS: If random drawings are required to award prizes, the random drawings will be conducted by Associated Response Services, Charlotte, NC, an independent judging organization whose decisions are final. To be eligible to win, entries must be authentic and official NFL Pro Line Collection cards and all cards will be verified for authenticity and correct game board match. Any uncertified autographed cards or incorrect game board matches will not be qualified to enter or to win. Your entry must be received by March 15, 1993 for the QB Gold and Rookie Gold games and June 30, 1993 for the Certified Authentic Autograph game. Random drawings will be held on or about March 31, 1993 for the QB Gold and Rookie Gold promotions, and on or about July 15, 1993 for the Certified Authentic Autograph game. Limit one entry per envelope.

4. This game is sponsored by NFL Properties, Inc., and starts on or about January 15, 1993. No cash substitutes or transfer of prizes will be permitted. Limit one winner per household. Void where prohibited by law. All winners will be required to sign an Affidavit of Eligibility/Release of Liability/Prize Acceptance Form within 14 days of notification. Noncompliance may result in disqualification and an alternate winner will be selected. If a minor wins, the prize will be awarded in the name of the winner's parent or legal guardian, who, where applicable, must accompany the minor to the event. Acceptance of the prize constitutes permission to the sponsor and its agencies to use winner's name and/or likeness for purposes of advertising and trade without further compensation, unless prohibited by law. By participating in this promotion, entrants agree to be bound by official rules and the decisons of the judges.

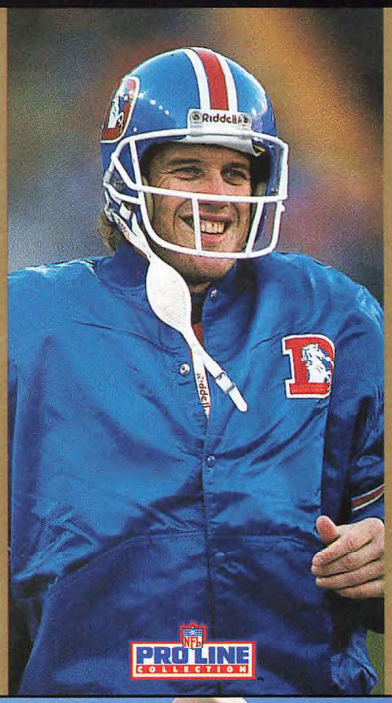
5. For a list of major winners, available after July 31, 1993, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: SUPER BOWL MATCH GAME, P.O. Box 7322, Charlotte, NC 28241. Void in Puerto Rico and where prohibited, taxed, or restricted by law.

FIND THE NFL PRO LINE COLLECTION AT:

Toys R Us • Kay-Bee Toys • Wal-Mart • Hook Drugs

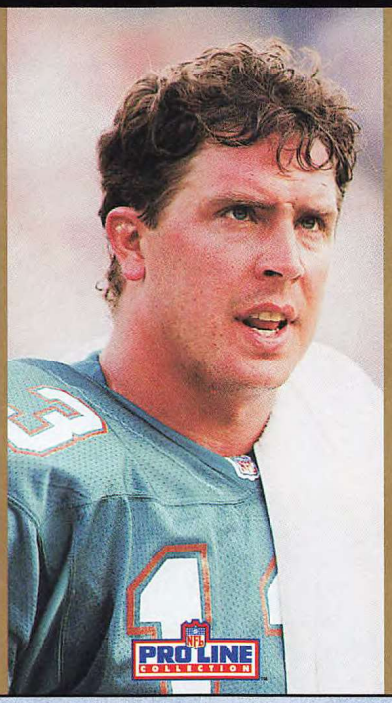
AND OTHER FINE RETAILERS AND HOBBY SHOPS

QUARTERBACK GOLD



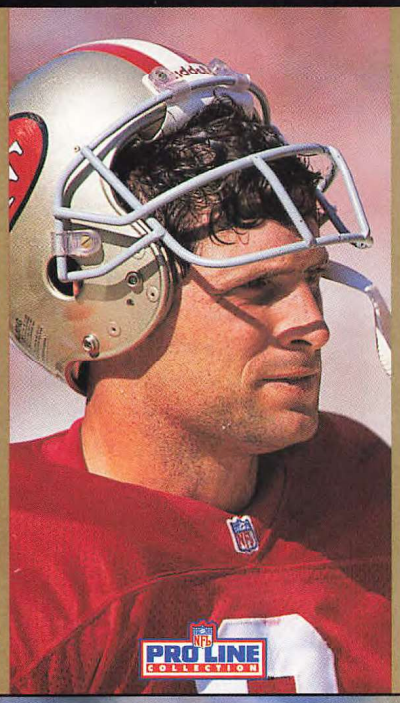
JOHN ELWAY

QUARTERBACK GOLD

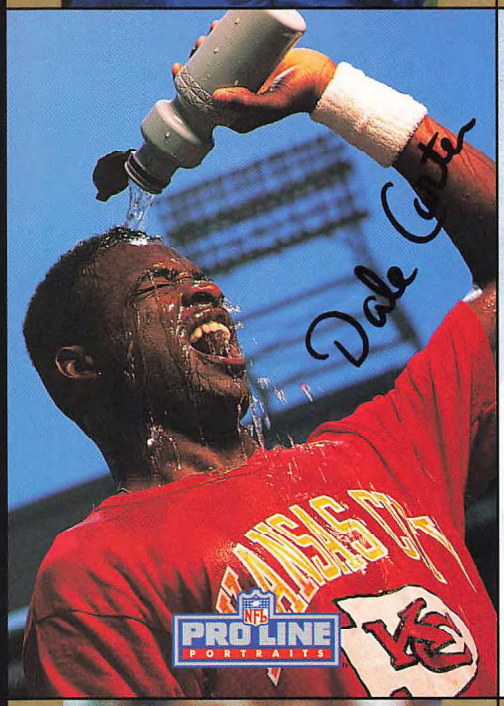


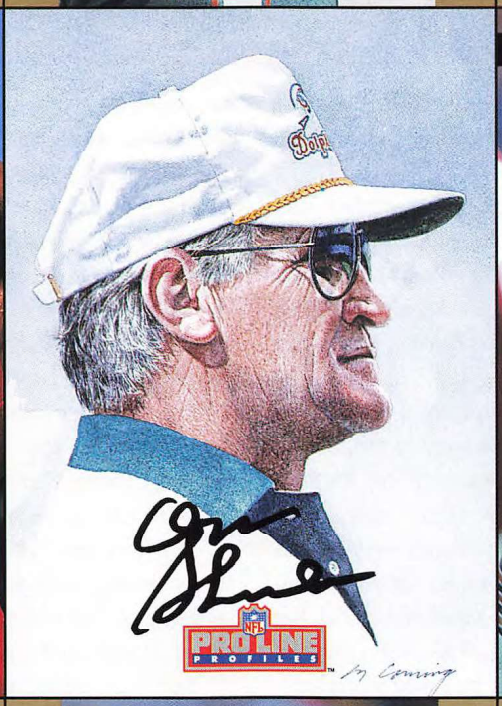
DAN MARINO

QUARTERBACK GOLD

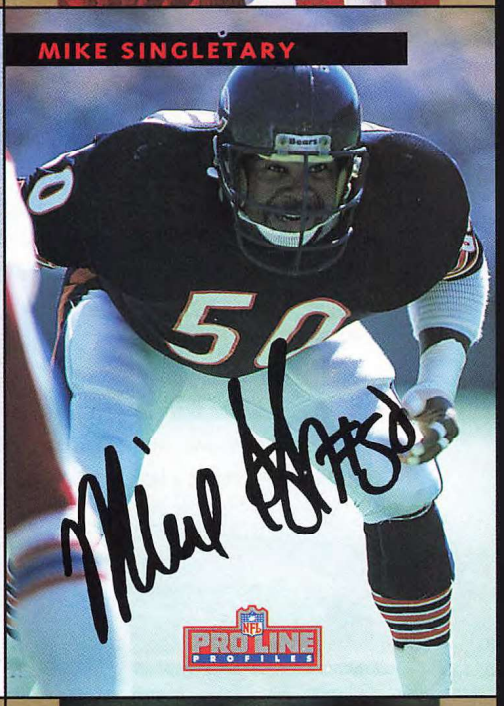


STEVE YOUNG

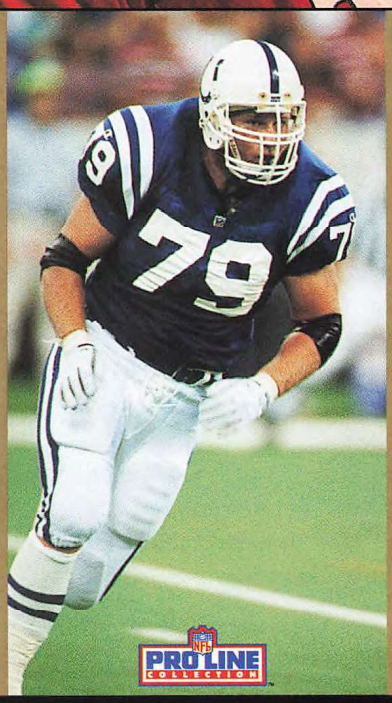




MIKE SINGLETARY

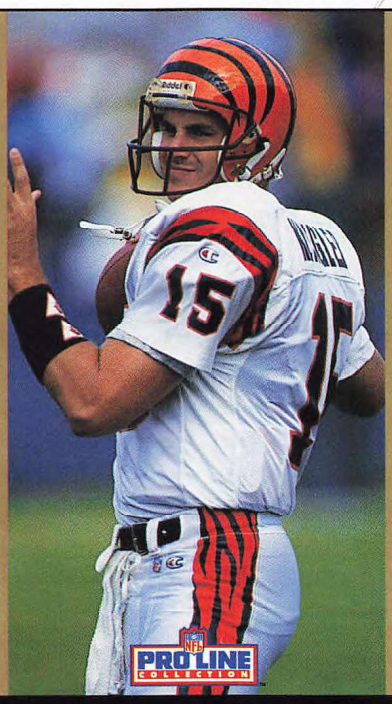


ROOKIE GOLD



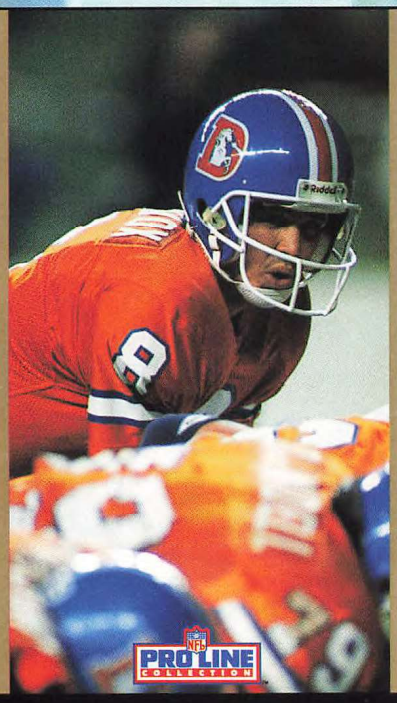
STEVE EMTMAN

ROOKIE GOLD



DAVID KLINGLER

ROOKIE GOLD

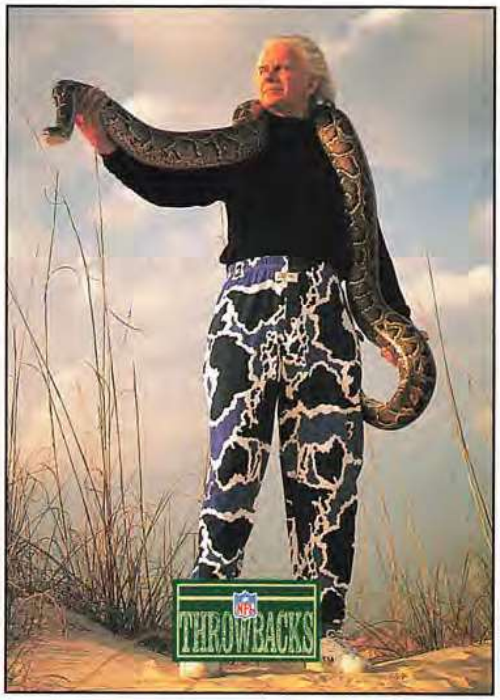


TOMMY MADDOX

tographs. Some pets resembled their owners, such as Bengals nose tackle Tim Krumrie's bulldog in a Portraits photo. Others did not, which was the case with the Profiles shot of Phil Simms and his family. A neighbor's dog simply did not want to be left out.

"For Henry Thomas's [Portrait] card, we wanted to photograph him with his dog, a boxer named Hidin'," says George Fry, a photographer who did extensive work on the Portraits series. "The dog went everywhere with Thomas and was a fixture around the Vikings' locker room.

"We were curious, however, about the dog's name. Thomas explained, 'The reason I named the dog Hidin' was because when I went to pick him out of the litter, he just kept hiding from me behind the other dogs.'" Hidin' didn't hide during the photo shoot, however. He turned out to be an excellent model.

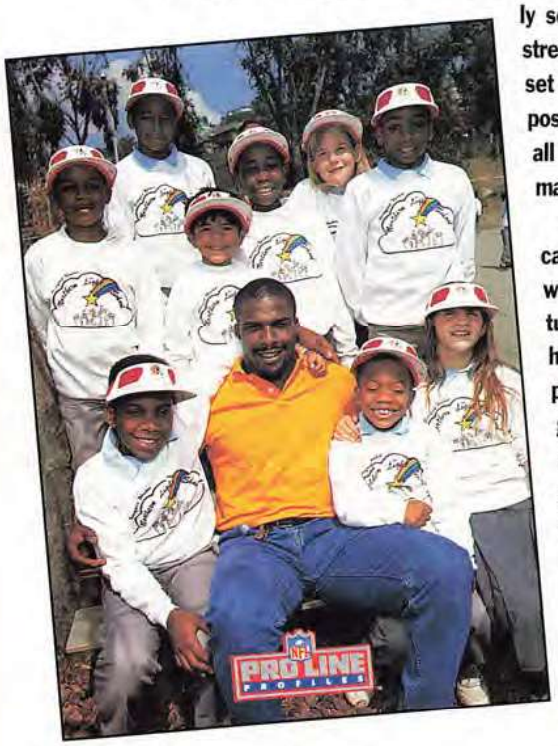


KEN (THE SNAKE) STABLER AND FRIEND

Some animals were symbolic of legendary nicknames. Nancy Flamberg of NFL Properties was charged with the task of finding the perfect prop for Ken Stabler's Portrait. What she found was an 11-foot Burmese python. Stabler, who was called "The Snake" during his career with the Raiders, Oilers, and Saints, never complained.

"I remember the time we spent with Earnest Byner," says Profiles interviewer Steve Delsohn. "He loved to fish, but we had trouble finding a lake that was close to his house. We finally settled on a nearby stream. Everything was set up for an average posed fishing shot, but all that changed in a matter of seconds.

"As soon as Byner cast his line into the water, he felt a sharp tug, and to our—and his daughters'—surprise, he caught a good-sized fish, making the photograph a memorable one—a real-life fish story."



JOHN TAYLOR AND NORTHERN LIGHT STUDENTS

The animals didn't always steal the show along the Pro Line trail. Sometimes members of the players' families stole the spotlight.

Redskins quarterback Mark Rypien's 3-year-old daughter, Ambre, took center stage during his photo session. As Miller set up his cameras, Ambre showed him the family pets. Miller asked if she would like to have her picture taken with the family cat.

Ambre thought the cat should be smiling. She hugged the cat with her right hand and placed her left hand underneath the cat's chin. A moment before Miller snapped the picture, Ambre pulled back on the cat's mouth, revealing some extremely sharp teeth.

The daughter of Raiders safety Ronnie Lott created all the commotion during his Profiles photo session. Hailey, a little more than four months old at the time, required most of the attention as Lott moved to different locations.

"We spent a good part of the day feeding the baby, changing the baby, and trying to keep the baby from crying," says Phil Barber of NFL Properties.

Hobbies often provided the best glimpse of the person.

"Jerry Glanville wanted to begin his photo shoot at six A.M.," says Delsohn. "So we arrived at Glanville's house before sunrise, and we were amazed when he answered the door wearing all black. He was energetic and ready to show us his car and motorcycle collection.

"We were even more astounded when he began revving the engines of his Harleys and vintage cars. That was very loud at six in the morning. I was afraid he would wake up the neighbors."

During his photo and interview session, Cardinals quarterback Timm Rosenbach, a cowboy at heart, gave the Pro Line team an old-fashioned reception. At his Arizona ranch, Rosenbach arranged for an authentic Southwestern barbecue and calf-roping exhibition.

The NFL Pro Line Collection shows that there is much more to life than touchdowns and victories. One of the most poignant moments was with 49ers wide receiver John Taylor.

Taylor, who works with children on a regular basis in the San Francisco Bay Area, chose one of his favorite groups—the Northern Light School—to feature on his Profile. While at the school, which helps underprivileged children get a quality education, Taylor was surprised when the children gathered in a circle and asked him to sit in the center.

After Taylor was seated, the children proudly belted out a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" and presented a cake to him. If that doesn't melt your heart, how about this? Each child—individually—gave Taylor a hug and a kiss. ■

GOOD SIGNS

The Pro Line Collection is one of the most unusual card sets ever produced for a lot of reasons—not the least of which is certified, authentic autograph cards.

Pro Line Collection participants signed thousands of cards—and there's an average of one in each box.

AND THE WINNER IS...

Washington Collector Completes NFL Pro Line Supermatch I Game Board, Travels to Super Bowl XXVII

Richard Kimberly of Bellingham, Washington, you've just won NFL Pro Line Supermatch I...what are you going to do next?

"I'm going to Super Bowl XXVII."

NFL Pro Line Supermatch I was the game, and a trip for two to Super Bowl XXVII in Pasadena was the top prize.

Kimberly collected nine autographed Pro Line Collection cards—the 1991 Portraits cards of John Elway (#257), Dan Marino (#159), Al Toon (#76), and Jim McMahon (#135); the 1992 Portraits card of Steve Emtman (#301); and the 1992 Profiles cards of Gary Clark (#210), Troy Aikman (#187), Ronnie Lott (#5), and Jerry Rice (#53).

"I started collecting Pro Line when it first came out [in 1991]," Kimberly says. "I got an insatiable desire for the stuff. I bought it by the case and ripped through it all."

A lawyer with a wife and five children, Kimberly completed Supermatch I on December 30, 1992, when he acquired his final piece to the puzzle—Lott's card—from Scott Hedrick of Collectible Cards in Seattle. The contest had its super grand prize winner.

Donly Trevin

KIMBERLY WITH WINNING RONNIE LOTT CARD, DEALER HEDRICK AT RIGHT

"Pro Line has become my passion," Kimberly says. "I love it. I enjoy seeing the guys doing something besides having a helmet on and hitting somebody. It's fun to get to know the players personally."

Kimberly has nearly 200,000 Pro Line cards, which are stored in 5,000-count boxes in his attic. He has 300 complete sets of 1991 Pro Line and is only two cards short of a complete set of 1991 autographs.

The 1992 Pro Line Collection has made an even greater impression on the native of Louisiana and long-time Saints fan. Kimberly says he has spent nearly $10,000 on 1992 Pro Line and probably has 575 autograph cards.

"I saw the 1992 Pro Line at the NFL Properties display at a card show in San Francisco," Kimberly says, "and did I ever get the bug bad. In my view it was just a much better and much more improved product than '91 Pro Line.

"Profiles truly made the '92 Pro Line stand out. It was a great idea to do a nine-card series on certain NFL subjects. You can put each one in a single sheet, and you can read all about their lives. I've had a lot of people comment on how excellent the Profiles are. I love the boyhood pictures, the college pictures, and the guys who work with various charities and those types of things.

"The fact that you got one autograph card per box in '92 also was a key factor in Pro Line's improvement from '91. In some cases I opened in '91, I was lucky to pull five signed cards from twenty boxes.

"When I bought a case in '92, I got a bunch of autographs. Those cases [which contain 10 boxes] have never averaged less than eleven autograph cards. When you get that kind of autograph volume, you can't lose."

Kimberly first met Hedrick about a year ago. Since that time, Kimberly, who already had the 1991 autographs required for Supermatch I, began buying Pro Line cases from Hedrick.

Does Kimberly have a favorite Profiles subject after opening all those cases?

"It is almost impossible to choose my favorite Profile," Kimberly says. "Jim Kelly, Sterling Sharpe, Steve Largent, and Pat Swilling stand out, but they're all great. I think Profiles is the most informative set that has ever been put out. I can pick up a card anywhere and look at statistics, but statistics don't mean a whole lot. But when you read about the players, that is enlightening."

Kimberly is not just an average sports fan. He travels throughout Washington as a high school basketball and soccer referee.

"When the Profiles show you all the positive things that athletes are doing and how they spend their time like regular citizens, it makes you feel better about the incredible amounts of money that they make," Kimberly says.

"The players aren't all prima donnas. They are real people who actually get involved in their communities. I think that makes me feel a whole lot better about the sport. When you know there are football players who are making a lot of money and also are giving a lot back to a community, it's easier to pay thirty-five dollars to watch a game."

Supermatch I also had other winners (see box at right) who were awarded various prizes. And there's more in 1993, too. See pages 4-5 of this first issue of *The Pro Line* for details on NFL Pro Line Supermatch II. Three exciting NFL adventures—trips to the 1994 Pro Bowl, the 1993 NFL Draft, and the 1993 NFL Quarterback Challenge—will be awarded.

"The way I look at it, my passion is cards," Kimberly says. "There is nothing more satisfying to me than sitting down with a case of Pro Line and tearing it open."

Except maybe winning a trip to the Super Bowl. ■

NFL PRO LINE SUPERMATCH I WINNERS

Richard Kimberly
Jay Miller
Edmund Janiszewski
George Soule
Randy Gill
Gene Diebl
Mitch Finegold
David Adams
Randy Glickman
Theo Chen
Shon Abrahamson
Ron Alexander
Carmine Avantini
Jerry Baty
Robert Bearfields
Doug Boeckezmann
Terry Brown
Craig Burklend
Jay Carlson
Wendell Cowart
Chuch Delprato
Michael Flores
E. R. Garcia
John Gast
Richard Gibson
James Hausknecht
Lynn Lay
Diana Lytle
Mark Marshall
Richard McEniry
Bob Motush
Peter Norris
Mike Payne
Mary Lou Pennington
Rocky Pitts
Mr. Robinson
Shawn Surdella
Jimmy Sheppard
Daniel Sieger
Tyson Steele
Mr. S. Tarragin
Brian Thiemer
Marc Turenne
Clinton Ward
Tony White

TOYS R US PROMOTION GRAND PRIZE WINNER

A. Roger Garman

Cover photo credit: Peter Read Miller

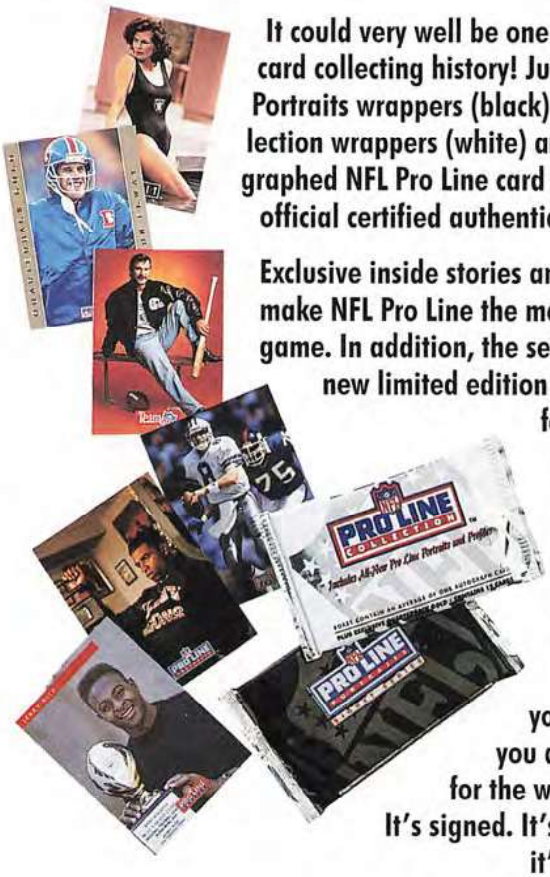
Now you can get an official NFL PRO LINE COLLECTION card

SIGNED

CERTIFIED AUTHENTIC NFL

SEALED

DELIVERED



It could very well be one of the greatest deals in card collecting history! Just send us 12 NFL Pro Line Portraits wrappers (black) and 12 NFL Pro Line Collection wrappers (white) and we'll send you an autographed NFL Pro Line card embossed with the official certified authentic NFL seal absolutely free!

Exclusive inside stories and spectacular photography make NFL Pro Line the most *personal* cards in the game. In addition, the set also includes the exciting new limited edition **Quarterback Gold** series, featuring 18 top NFL quarterbacks! With an average of one autograph card per counter box, no other card set makes getting a certified authentic autograph easier! So, if you haven't got one yet, or if you want more, we'll trade you an official autograph card for the wrapper you'd throw away! It's signed. It's sealed. It's delivered. And it's yours...FREE!

FREE!

To receive your FREE NFL Pro Line certified authentic autograph card, mail your 24 wrappers (12 black and 12 white) along with a self-addressed, stamped ($.52) envelope to: NFL Pro Line Autograph Card Offer, PO Box 7089, Charlotte, NC 28241-7089.

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SPOTLIGHT

L.A.'s Eccentric Architecture
Andy Rooney in Hollywood
L.A. Football Relived
NFL Players Go Hollywood
The Dolphins' Perfect Season

And, to Start It Off Appropriately, "Ladies and Gentlemen, Heere's..."

SPOTLIGHT

. . . JAAAY LENNNO!!

Scrimmage Lines From the Host of *The Tonight Show*

This year, there was a new pricing structure for the Super Bowl. The top tickets went for $1,750 each, which included a premium seat, special parking, and a celebrity brunch. Hey, for that kind of dough, I want to be able to kick off.

What really gets me is that people will pay that much for a seat and then spend most of the time standing up and cheering—or else in line at the rest room.

Of course, not everyone stands up during the game. Some fans are glued to their seats by all the excitement. Others are glued to their seats by the spilled soda from the guy behind him.

Everybody who's ever played the sport has a football memory they'll never forget. Generally, it's the day they neglected to wear their cup.

Actually, I can't understand why some fans do the things they do. For instance, they'll arrive at the game early just so they can get into the parking lot. Yet the same fans will leave the game before it's over so they can get out of the parking lot.

Do you realize that by the end of today's game, billions of dollars will have traded hands? And that's just what the parking lot attendants will make.

I'll never forget the first football game I went to. It was a pretty frightening experience: the brutality, the bodies colliding furiously, the sound of bones breaking. Finally, I just gave up on getting a beer and went back to watch the game.

I wanted to have a career in sports when I was young, but I had to give it up. I'm only 6 feet tall, so I couldn't play basketball. I'm only 190 pounds, so I couldn't play football. And I have 20/20 vision, so I couldn't be a referee.

NBC is televising this year's Super Bowl. NBC is the network that years ago brought you the famous Jets-Raiders game that was cut short for the movie *Heidi*. Remember that one? The executive who made the decision still is working at NBC. I haven't met him, but then I don't get down to the boiler room much.

There's nothing like the thrill we Americans get at the moment of the Super Bowl kickoff. It means the pregame shows are finally over.

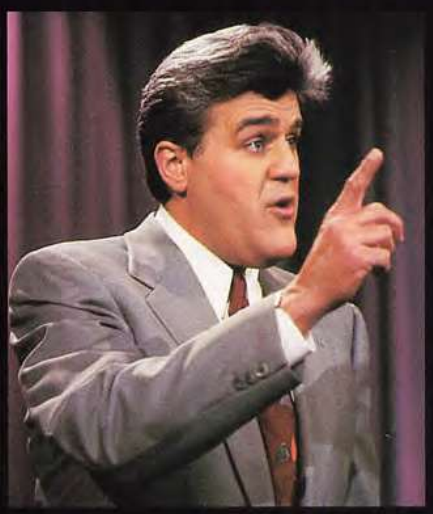
This year, like every year, two teams will face each other in the Super Bowl. One team will win and know what it's like to be a champion. The other team will lose and know what it's like to be a Republican.

Beer companies will spend millions just to market their products to beer drinkers during this one game. It's too bad beer drinkers are usually all in the bathroom during the commercials.

One beer company has an interesting Super Bowl promotion. So you don't miss a minute of Super Bowl action, with every six-pack of beer you buy, you get a free box of Depends.

Do you know why American-style football hasn't really taken off in the rest of the world? Because it's impossible to describe how big a football field is to someone who's not familiar with something 'the size of a football field.' What do you say? 'It's half the size of two football fields?'

As you know, the Super Bowl is very popular all over the world. This year, the game is even being televised in Russia. I bet the Russians will be oohing and aahing. Not at the game—at all those commercials for Charmin toilet paper and the Sizzler.



Strange, but in England they think soccer is football. Of course, in England they think princes and princesses live happily ever after.

And finally, *when the Super Bowl ends, it begins a very depressing time for American men. They look around and realize that at some point during the season their wives left them.*

MEET ME AT THE BIG RED PIANO

and Other Tales of the Past and Present Buildings of Los Angeles

BY STEVE HARVEY

It was the take-out order that Tail o' the Pup owner Eddie Blake had dreaded: One 17-foot-long hot dog to go. His.

Blake's lease had run out, and the frankfurter-shaped stand on La Cienega Boulevard would have to give way to a hotel/restaurant complex.

"I was afraid we were going to be put out on the street," said Blake, knowing full well there's no room on the street for a giant, steel-reinforced weenie (with mustard).

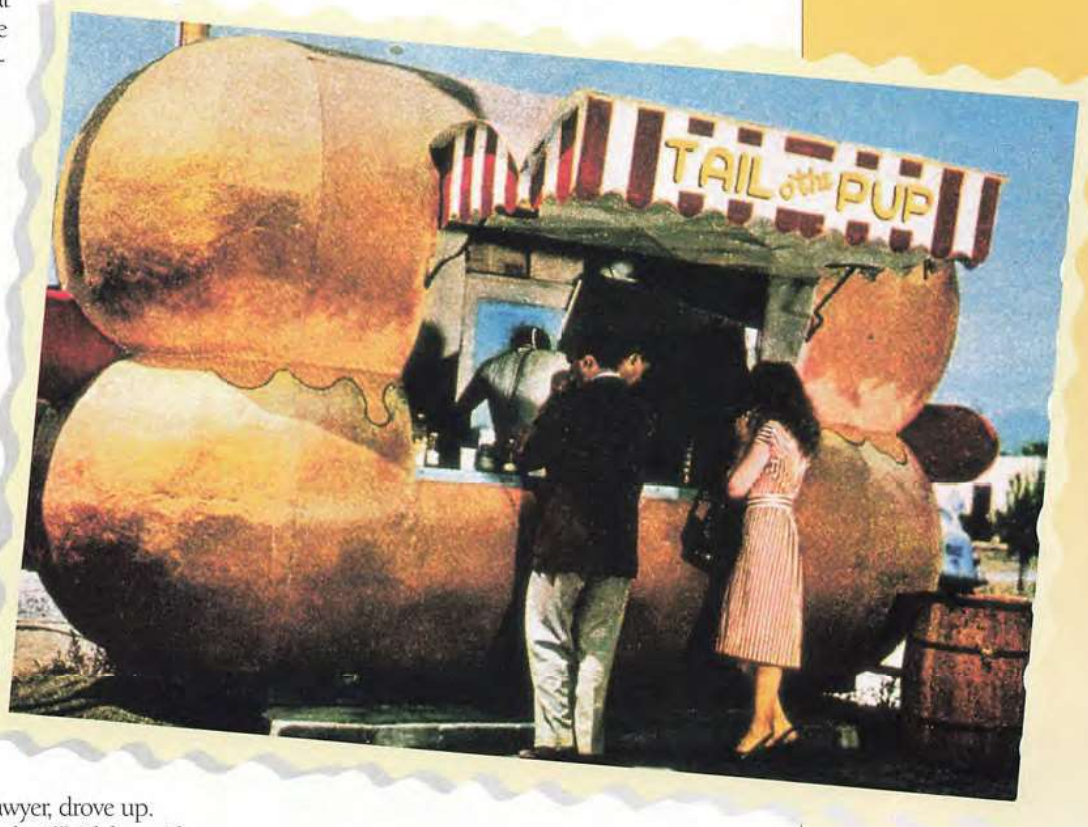
A group of preservationists urged the city to declare the Pup a cultural landmark, but even Los Angeles wouldn't go that far.

Fortunately, a friend of Blake's owned a storage yard in Covina where the Pup could be parked while Blake sold food out of a catering truck next to his old location. One day a long-time customer, a lawyer, drove up.

"He asked, 'Where is the hot dog?'" Blake said. "When I told him, he said, 'I have a place for you.' And he rented me this piece of property."

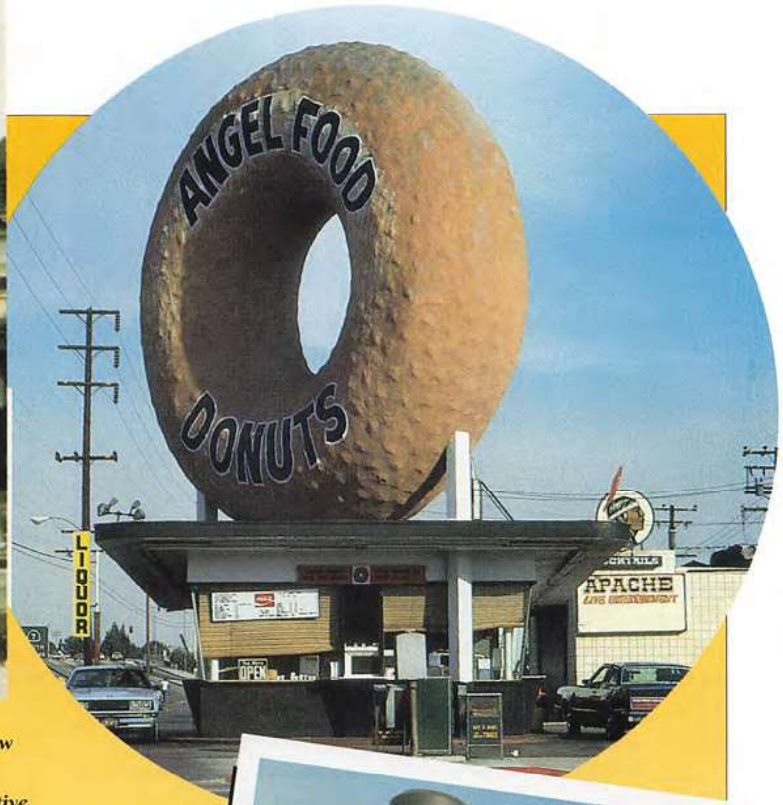
That was six years ago, and the 47-year-old frankfurter is as fresh as ever. "All it needs is a little patching now and then," Blake said.

The Pup is a celebrated leftover, a reminder that long before Disneyland, L.A. was a kind of outdoor amusement park designed to catch the eye of a new breed of traveler known as an "autoist," or driver.

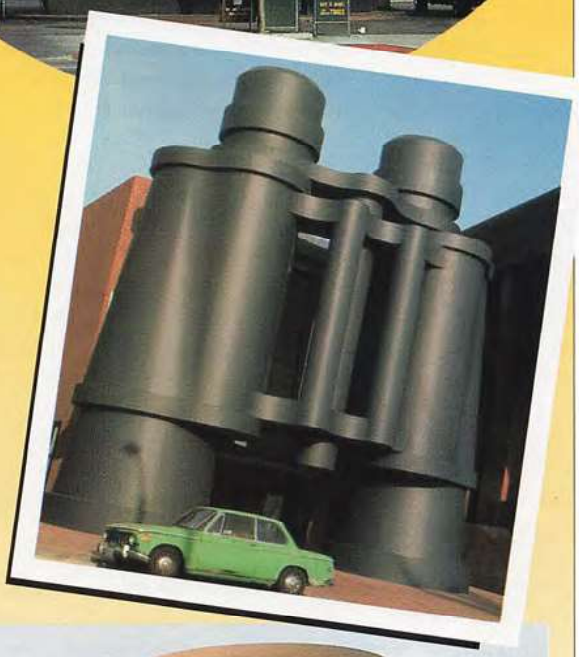


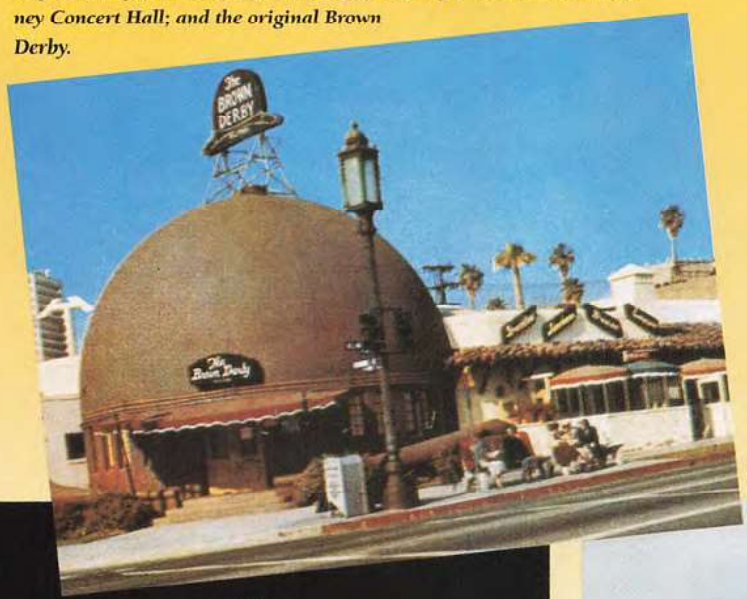
Tail o' the Pup no longer rests its buns on La Cienega Boulevard, but the famed take-out stand remains a living testament to L.A.'s golden era of kooky architecture.

Photos: Jim Heimann/Heimann collection, unless otherwise noted



Clockwise from above: the late Big Red Piano; the Big Doughnut (now Randy's Donuts) in Inglewood; the Chiat Day/Mojo binoculars in Venice; the Walt Disney headquarters in Burbank, featuring supportive 10-foot dwarfs; Frank Gehry's whimsical model for the downtown Disney Concert Hall; and the original Brown Derby.





Courtesy of the Walt Disney Company

The Brobdingnagian wonderland was dotted with buildings in the shape of shoes, coffee cups, dogs, doughnuts, frogs, pumpkins, flower pots, cameras, zeppelins, and farm animals (the Pig Cafe offered service through its snout).

Legend has it that some friends doubted Arthur Somborn's boast that he could sell food out of a hat. So he built the Orignal Brown Derby.

"Southern California was always the place of rugged individualism," points out author Bruce Henstell. "Since most of it had been built very recently—this century—there were no traditions or standards, no one to say this was right or wrong. Plus, it was a very flat town. Your business had to stand out to attract drivers or they'd race by blinded by the brilliant sunlight."

So what if the meaning of the design wasn't always clear?

The Coca-Cola Bottling Plant on Central Avenue had the body of an ocean liner. The Samson Tire and Rubber Company appeared to be an Assyrian palace, its front wall covered with reliefs of Assyrian chariots, kings, and gods. A Fairfax real estate company assumed the shape of the Great Sphinx.

The important thing was to be noticeable.

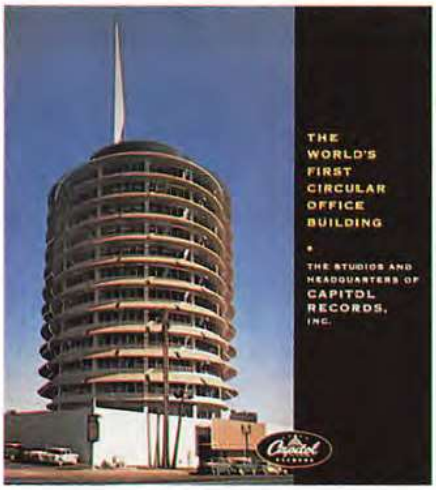
But the Fairfax Sphinx, unlike its more celebrated counterpart in Egypt, has disappeared, eroded by the winds of change in southern California. And so have many of L.A.'s other architectural curiosities.

"Rising property values," explained the Pup's Blake. "Most of these things were little places, on strategic corners. I was fortunate to have a very nice lady for a landlord for years. But many of the others got to the point where they couldn't pay the rent."

And so, a moment of silence, please, for such vanished wonders as the Toed Inn (with a counter directly beneath its fleshy amphibian throat), Sanderson's Hosiery in West Los Angeles (topped by a 35-foot-tall nyloned leg), and the Dugout restaurant in Montebello (whose martial ambiance was enhanced by sandbags circling the exterior and a World War I-vintage plane sticking out of the roof).

Some landmarks hung on gamely for a while.

Chicken Boy had to vacate his downtown roost, but the 23-foot anthropomorphic fowl was rescued from oblivion by the Future Studio firm.



In 1956, Capitol Records proudly unveiled its circular tower, which looms 13 stories above the intersection of Hollywood and Vine.

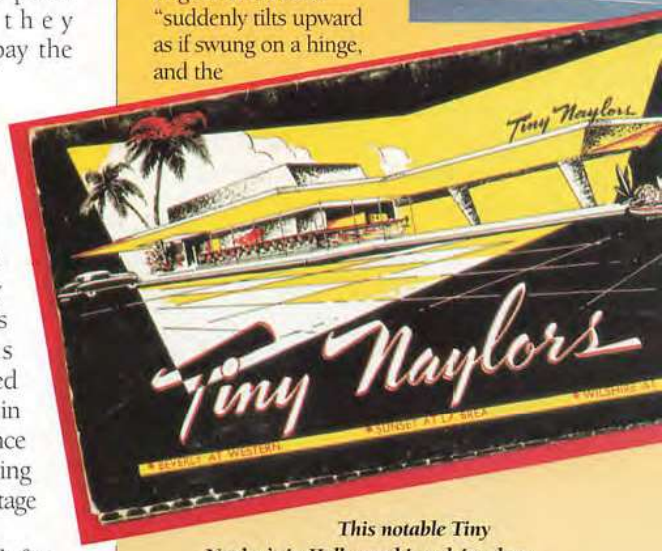
The Ugly Dog Cafe in West Los Angeles became Ugly Dog Records before being put to sleep. Montebello's hilly Mount Baldy Inn (1927) was cleaved, as though by an earthquake, with one slope bearing a "Dancing" sign and the other an "Upholstery" sign. It was leveled a few years ago.

Preservationists appeared to have saved one

THE DAWN OF GOOGIE

"Stop the car!" author Douglas Haskell shouted to his companion as they cruised down Sunset Boulevard one day in 1952.

Haskell had seen the future; a building with a bright red roof that "suddenly tilts upward as if swung on a hinge, and the whole building goes up with it like a rocket ramp..."



This notable Tiny Naylor's in Hollywood is a drive-thru.

It was a cafe whose name Haskell would give to that gravity-defying, Sputnik era of architecture: Googie.

Coffee Shop Modern, it also was dubbed, though that was too confining for Southern California. Architect Eldon Davis, the dean of Googie, once said: "I was shocked to see the same ziggy-zag roofs start showing up on churches here..."

Old-fashioned architecture was out.

"People's tastes changed and suddenly everything had to be new, atomic, clean, light-edged," historian Bruce Henstell says. "They were too sophisticated for restaurants built into the shape of a dog."

But like the dog, the coffee shops were constructed to attract automobile drivers. Their names, for instance, had to be short enough that drivers could take them in at

Googie's on Sunset (above) lent its name to an entire genre of coffee-shop architecture. Ships (right, from a circa-1960 menu) and Chip's (below) are two further examples.

a 35-m.p.h. glance.

"Oh, those names!" enthuses Alan Hess in his study of the form, *Googie*. "They fly and swoop, dance and jump, rock and roll—Ships and Chip's, Googie's and Biff's, Bob's..."

Nor could anyone miss signs like the Ships upward-bound rocket.

Or the introduction of spotlights by Norman Roybark, the founder of Norm's.

Norm had started out in the car business, and he saw similarities with the food business. Just as he would bathe the jalopies in light in the evening so they'd look clean and sparkling, he built his restaurants with slanted roofs so the light would play off their under-ceilings as motorists drove by.

Another trend was glass walls, showing off waitresses in colorful uniforms rushing back and forth. The owners saw the walls as revolving signs.

Once inside, many of the cafes offered "exhibition cooking"—the chef and grill were fully visible to the diners. It was important to show greasy-spoon veterans that these were clean restaurants.

Like the genre of dog-shaped eateries, the Googie style also is disappearing, the victim of tighter sign ordinances, developers, and chain restaurants. The actual Googie's all have been torn down.

Lately, preservationists have begun to take notice of Coffee Shop Modern.

"As often happens, a style becomes rediscovered just when the last examples are being torn down," Hess said. "It happened with Victorian buildings, too."

A Bob's Big Boy in Burbank recently was given landmark status, but such designations only delay the demolition process in the unlikely hope that a sympathetic buyer will be found.

Two of the three original Ships remain, coffee shops distinguished by the toasters that sit atop each table. Emmett Shipman, the late founder, came upon the idea, he once said, because "I personally don't like cold toast." (The average Ships toaster wears out in six months.)

Ships is a time capsule of the '50s—even the Formica remains the same. Well, one thing has changed. Longtime waitress Lee Riling has retired from the graveyard shift at the Culver City Ships, where she gained a measure of fame for her custom of awakening drunks at the counter by blowing a whistle in their ears.

member of the species, the Big Red Piano, but when it was set down in a new location, it promptly collapsed—too far gone for a piano tuner's ministrations.

Jim Heimann, the author of *California Crazy...Roadside Vernacular Architecture*, has termed such curiosities "distinctive, the kind you'd say about later, 'I went there as a kid.' It's getting so this city doesn't look any different than Houston or Dallas."

Fortunately, a few standouts remain. A motorist driving down Sunset Boulevard suddenly comes upon what appears to be a giant stack of records. It's the 35-year-old Capitol Records Building. But, even here, there's a sour note: The company says it's looking around for a more attractive neighborhood. If Capitol does move, one hopes that the building will be occupied by an appropriate successor, perhaps the International House of Pancakes.

While rising land values wiped out many L.A. curiosities, the recession may have saved the 20-foot-tall Big Doughnut (now Randy's Donuts) off the San Diego Freeway. The city of Inglewood originally marked the plaster pastry's location for redevelopment, but has shelved the project.

"I doubt if we could move somewhere else, because of the sign ordinances," coowner Larry Weintraub said. "It's sad to see places like this disappear, because people have so much fun at them. The other day we had three guys from Italy visit—they remembered us from the first time they visited this country years ago. People come here with smiles on their faces."

The 44-year-old stand also is in demand for supporting roles in movies, its biggest part coming in *Earth Girls Are Easy*, for which the doughnut donned some makeup—a 1950 Woody station wagon, stuck in the hole.

"In the movie, the Martians get in an accident on the freeway while they're being chased by police," Weintraub exlained. "The Woody flies up into the doughnut."

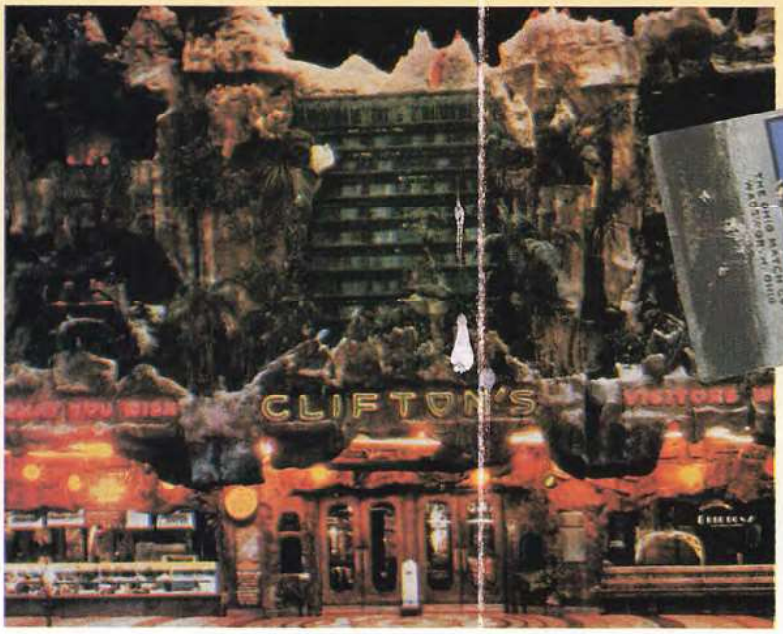
But why were the Martians driving a Woody?

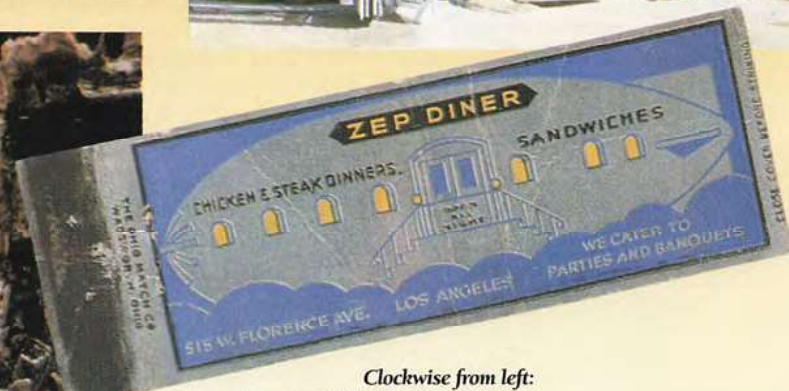
"Oh, they picked that up in the Valley," said Weintraub, "after their spaceship landed in a swimming pool."

On the other side of town, another monument to calories, La Puente's drive-through Donut Hole, claims to be doing its bit for family values.

"The legend is that it's good luck for

(Continued on page 115)





Clockwise from left: the splendid Clifton's South Seas Cafeteria; the Tamale, a tenacious survivor that has been dormant for years in Montebello; the Ugly Dog Cafe in Culver City, which became Ugly Dog Records in a later incarnation; the Freezer; another animate eatery, the Toed Inn in Santa Monica; and, with a strong dose of irony, a matchbook from the Zep(ellin) Diner.

The Ugly Dog Crowd

Southern California's landscape once was covered with businesses with shapes that mimicked the products they were selling—or, if that wasn't possible, mimicked something, anything, big. Their names often were as colorful as their designs.

R.I.P.:

Hollywood Flower Pot
Toed Inn, *Santa Monica*
Ugly Dog Cafe, *Culver City*
Hoot Hoot I Scream, *South Gate*
Pumpkin Palace, *Burbank*
The Freezer, *downtown Los Angeles*
The Mushrooms, *Burbank*
Zeppelin Diner, *Los Angeles*
The Umbrella Service Station, *Los Angeles*
Barkies, *Beverly Boulevard*
The Jail Cafe, *Hollywood*
Ship Cafe, *Abbot Kinney Pier*
The Orange Inn, *Pasadena*
Grass Shack Drive In, *Long Beach*
Clifton's South Seas Cafeteria, *Los Angeles*
Plantation Cafe, *Culver City*
The Igloo, *West L.A.*
Big Red Piano, *Los Angeles*

Some survivors:

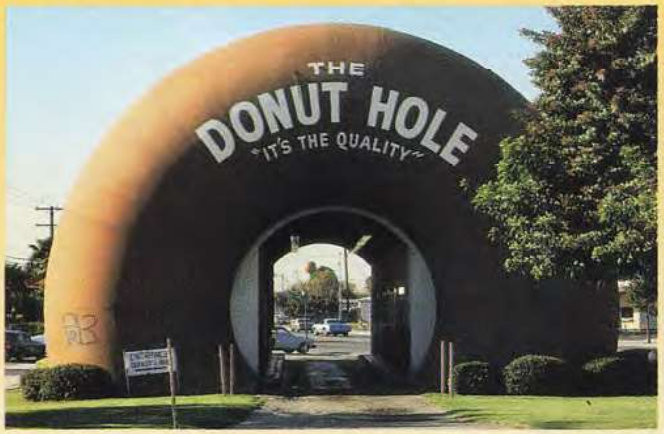
Tamale, *6421 Whittier Boulevard, Montebello*
Tail o' the Pup, *329 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood*
Oil Patch Liquors, *2799 E. Willow, Signal Hill*
Randy's Donuts, *805 W. Manchester Boulevard, Inglewood*
The Donut Hole, *15300 E. Amar Road, La Puente*
Ships, *10705 Washington Boulevard, Culver City*
Ships, *1016 S. La Cienega Boulevard, Beverly Hills*
Coca-Cola Bottling Company, *1334 S. Central Avenue, L.A.*
Kone Inn, *402 York Boulevard, Eagle Rock*
The Bucket, *4541 Eagle Rock Boulevard, Eagle Rock*
Hot Cha, *957 Fourth Street, Long Beach*
Allied Model Trains, *4411 Sepulveda Boulevard, Culver City.*

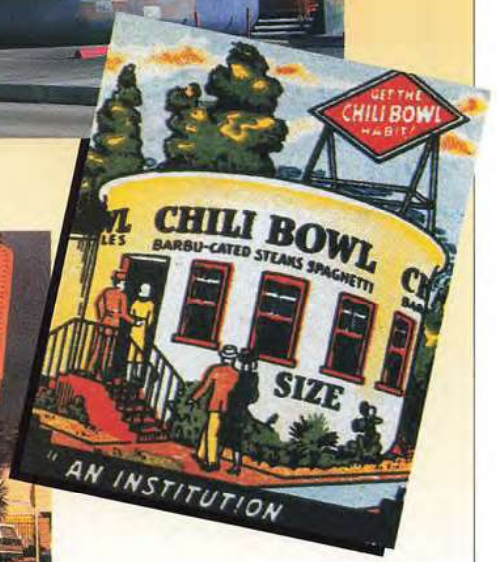
Second Lives

Darkroom, now Sher-e Punjab Cuisine, *5370 Wilshire Boulevard, L.A.*
Samson Tire Works, now Citadel complex, *5675 Telegraph Road, City of Commerce*
Chili Bowl, now Mexican retaurant, *12244 West Pico Boulevard, West L.A.*

Reincarnation

Some L.A. restaurants, with their previous businesses in parentheses:
Engine Co. No. 28 Restaurant, *Figueroa Street (Engine Co. No. 28 Fire Station)*
Trattoria Angeli, *West L.A. (Shane Carpet showroom)*
Guido's, *West L.A. (Shakey's Pizza Parlor)*
La Salsa, *Westwood (Ralphs market)*
Holly Street Bar and Grill, *Pasadena (Turner & Stevens mortuary)*
Collage, *Long Beach (gas station)*
Ritz Grill, *Pasadena (gas station)*
Rex Il Ristorante, *downtown (clothing store)*
Kate Mantilini, *Beverly Hills (bank)*
Valentino's, *Santa Monica (bar)*
Rose Cafe, *Venice (Gas Company Office)*
Tamayo, *East L.A. (pipe supply store)*
Far East Cafe, *Little Tokyo (hardware store)*
La Golondria, *Olvera Street, (residence, auto body shop, brothel)*
Philippe's, *downtown (brothel)*





The Donut Hole in La Puente (above) is said to bring good luck to newlyweds. Of Arthur Whizin's 18 original Chili Bowls (right), only four remain standing, including a Mexican restaurant in West L.A. (top) and a Chinese restaurant in Montebello (bottom).

BEAUTIFUL BRADBURY

When Louis Bradbury quarreled with his architect about the design of a building that would bear his name, the dying millionaire turned to a young draftsman named George Wyman instead. Wyman hesitated to take the offer until he could talk with a trusted confidant:

His dead brother.

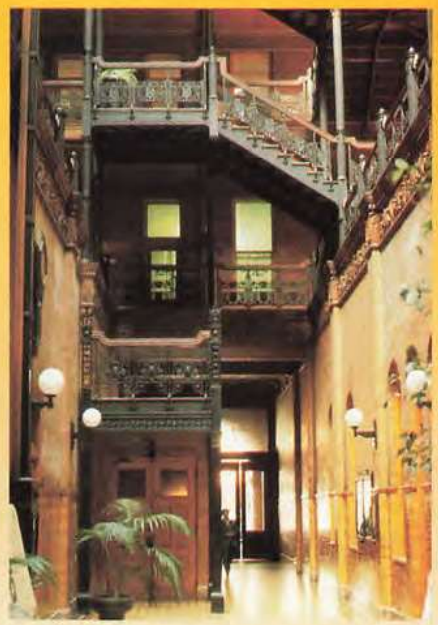
Wyman, after all, never had designed a building. His late brother, speaking through a Ouija board, supposedly advised him: "Take the Bradbury Building. It will make you famous."

And he was right. The Bradbury, which opened in 1893, is one of Los Angeles's relatively few architectural treasures—with the requisite list of movie credits to prove it, including *DOA*, *Good Neighbor Sam*, and *Blade Runner*.

Located at 3rd and Broadway, it appears from the outside to be just another aging structure in the central city.

Inside, it is something else.

"It is a dream of pink-marble staircases, wrought-iron balustrades, and open elevators that all rise around a light-drenched central atrium," writes author Richard Alleman in *The Movie Lover's Guide to Hollywood*.



Stationed at 3rd and Broadway in the heart of downtown, the Bradbury is "a dream of pink-marble staircases, wrought-iron balustrades, and open elevators."

For architectural inspiration, Wyman turned to an 1887 science-fiction novel, *Looking Backward*, which described the typical office building of the year 2000 as "a vast hall full of light, received not alone from the windows on all sides but from the dome."

The Bradbury, Alleman points out, "could have been the prototype for all the Grand Hyatt hotels." Even if it did take the Hyatt's architects three-quarters of a century to get the idea.

DINING AT THE EPICENTRE

In search of the true L.A. dining experience, I paid a visit to the Epicentre.

Talk about ambience: paintings with disaster themes, some tilted, some split in half...cracked walls...splintered glass...sheared-off columns.

The 18-month-old Epicentre, which calls itself the world's first earthquake-themed eatery, is located in downtown Los Angeles at 3rd and Hill Streets, just a matter of blocks from the recently postulated Echo Park Fault.

Scary restaurant names seem to be in vogue in L.A., which also is the home of the Shark Club, the Piranha Room, the Crocodile Cafe, Typhoon, Cafe Gale, and Asylum. Too bad that Ptomaine Tommy's had to shut down a few years ago.

The Epicentre's *maitre d'*, Andrew Harding, smiled when asked if his establishment had ever been rocked while it was open. "No," he said. "There've been a couple of quakes during the night and in the morning, but that's all. We call those wake-up calls—reminders that people should come in here to eat."

Welcome to L.A.'s only earthquake-themed restaurant, which offers disaster-themed artwork and faux cracks in the walls.

Nothing like a little earthquake humor. We descended a floor as he led me to my table.

Naturally, the Epicentre is split-level.

The menu complemented the disaster decor. I started off with San Andreas Soup ($4.75), choosing it over the Epi Salad ($6.50). The Ocean Quesadilla ($6.95) looked promising but I decided to go with Curry on the Richter Scale ($12.50). The menu said it's "spiced to order, 1.0 to 10.0." I chose a magnitude 4 to play it safe. The jolt it gave me, though, would have measured at least 6.5 on Cal Tech's instruments.

I finished with Psychedelic Ice Cream, which was listed with the desserts under the heading, "After Shocks."

Especially at $4.25.

I asked waiter Kirk Fyson whether the Epicentre's theme might repel some people.

"I don't think so," he said. "You remember earlier this year when we had two earthquakes in one day? It was a Sunday. The next day was the busiest Monday we've ever had."

Maybe that was true. Maybe it was just another earthquake myth.

Whatever, it was time to ask him the inevitable question. If the Big One struck the Epicentre during dining hours, where would the safest place be?

Michael Burr

(Continued from page 111)

newlyweds to drive through," explained one worker.

Even as examples of California Crazy Past disappear, pop archeologists occasionally stumble upon remnants.

Author Heimann was driving down Pico Boulevard in West L.A. when he glimpsed the giant pickle that once stood proudly atop Pickle Bill's restaurant.

"I spotted this Tiki war god with bumps near the entrance to Kelbo's barbecue," Heimann recalled, "and I thought, 'No, that can't be the pickle!' But I checked and it was."

Diners entering the Shere Punjab Cuisine restaurant on Wilshire Boulevard pass through a giant Leica camera, complete with lens and shutter-speed indicator. The building began life as the Darkroom camera shop. The Assyrian tire factory survives as an Assyrian shopping center/hotel complex, and still is a traditional congestion point on the Santa Ana Freeway.

Half a century after Arthur Whizin built 18 circular Chili Bowl restaurants, four still

No Epicentre meal would be complete without the San Andreas Soup.

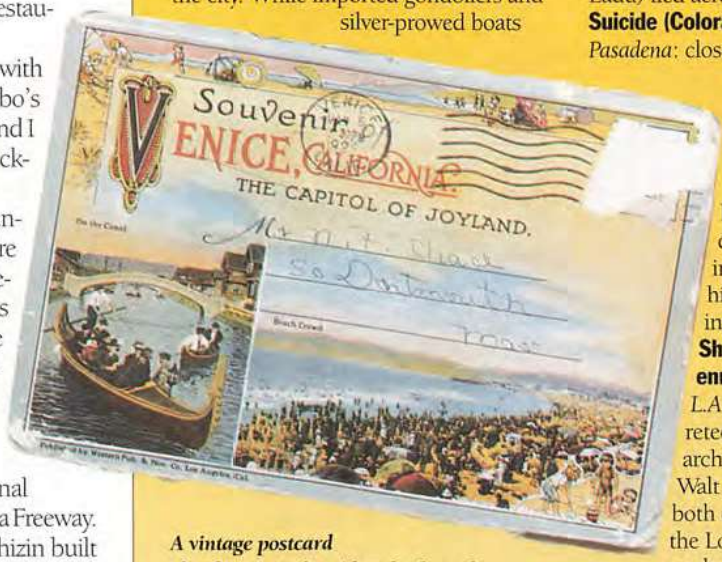
He looked around the restaurant, at the tilted paintings, cracked walls, sheared off columns, and, especially, at the long mirror behind the bar.

"Probably outside," he concluded.

Michael Burr

THE BRIDGES OF L.A.

Venice Bridges (early 1900s), *Venice*: The survivors of Abbot Kinney's dream of replicating the Italian city in southern California, they are the oldest functioning bridges in the city. While imported gondoliers and silver-prowed boats once glided by on the canals underneath, the traffic now is mostly ducks, inner tubes, and city clean-up crews, who move along Huck Finn-like on rafts.



A vintage postcard glorifies Venice's gridwork of canals and the bridges that spanned them.

Hidden (Arroyo) Bridge, *UCLA*: One of the most mysterious campus landmarks, it was erected in 1927 so that trucks could haul building materials over a gully during the construction of the campus. After World War II, the ravine was filled in and the 300-foot-long bridge now looks like a simple street. Few passers-by know that students once chased rabbits underneath its Romanesque arches, which now are buried underground.

Railroad Footbridge (1890), *downtown*: The crumbling span, closed for years, was used by pedestrians to cross over the railroad tracks east of Chinatown. The villainous title star of "This Gun for Hire" (Alan Ladd) fled across it to evade the cops.

Suicide (Colorado Street) Bridge (1912), *Pasadena*: closed for repairs, the graceful structure was saddled with its tragic nickname in the 1930s. More than 100 people have leaped to their deaths from it. As a boy, the late actor William Holden delighted in horrifying passing motorists by walking on his hands along the outer railings of the bridge.

Shakespeare (Franklin Avenue) Bridge (1926), *Northern L.A.*: Legend has it that the turreted span with the graceful arches was built for a movie by Walt Disney or Cecil B. DeMille, both of whom were residents of the Los Feliz neighborhood in northern L.A. Surprise: It actually was the work of a city engineer, back when cities took more pride in such things.

Vincent Thomas Bridge (1961), *L.A. Harbor*: An imposing suspension bridge that soars to a height of 185 feet, it never has received much recognition, probably because of its obscure locale, connecting San Pedro and Terminal (formerly Rattlesnake) Island. Named after a state legislator (who then was defeated for re-election), it is often mistakenly called Saint Vincent Thomas Bridge, even by natives.

The turreted Shakespeare Bridge adds a touch of outlandishness to Franklin Avenue.

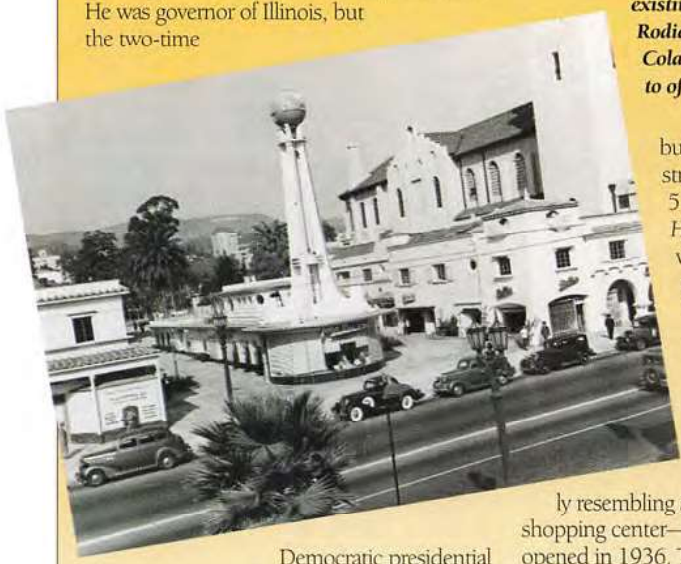
10 Places Worth Noting

Some unusual or obscure architectural works that have been designated as official landmarks by the city or the state:

1. **Tower of Wooden Pallets**, *Sherman Oaks*: The 22-foot-tall structure, which consists of 2,000 small platforms discarded by a brewery, was constructed by resident Daniel Van Meter in his backyard in 1951. He wanted a little privacy. One former Cultural Heritage Commissioner joked of the landmark designation: "Maybe we were drunk."

2. **The former Peoples Temple Church**, *downtown*: The one-time headquarters of notorious cult leader Jim Jones, now the Central Spanish Seventh-Day Adventist Church, was honored not for its historical link with Jones, of course, but for its Italian Romanesque architecture.

3. **Birthplace of Adlai Stevenson**, *downtown*: He was governor of Illinois, but the two-time Democratic presidential nominee actually was born in L.A., where he lived until age 6. (Few famous people are *born* in L.A.; most move here.) His 100-year-old birthpace, an 18-room, white-colored building located near USC at 2639 Monmouth Avenue, has been used as a rooming house for university students.



4. **Bob's Big Boy**, *Burbank*: Honored by the state as the epitome of Southern California car culture of the 1950s, it's the oldest surviving Bob's. Still, at 44, it's young for a landmark. The owner—ironically named MacDonald—wants to knock it down and build an office building. He terms his historic structure an "eyesore."

Clockwise from above: the oldest existing Bob's, in Burbank; Simon Rodia's Watts Towers; the Coca-Cola Building; and a 1930s photo of Crossroads of the World.

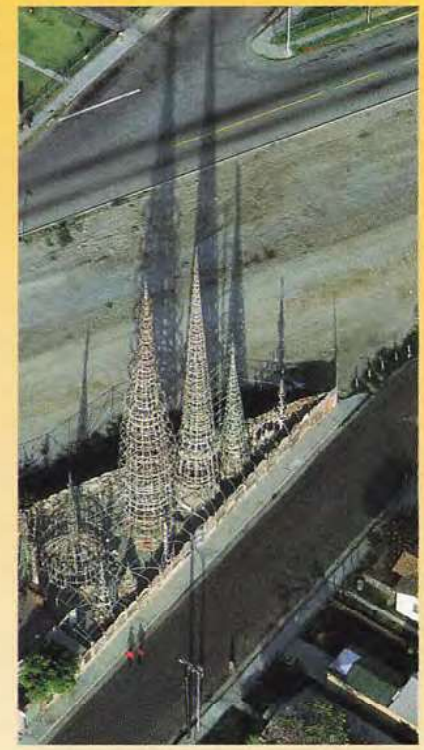
5. **Bob's Market**, *Angeleno Heights*: Not to be confused with Bob's Big Boy, this modest market was cited as "an example of a 1920 neighborhood grocery store with unusual Orientalized commercial architecture."

6. **Crossroads of the World**, *Hollywood*: Vaguely resembling a movie set, this one-time shopping center—one of the nation's first—opened in 1936. The complex was designed like a European village, with bungalows in Spanish, medieval, English, and French styles. Another feature is a large tower topped by a spinning globe that represents the world.

7. **Fine Arts Buiding**, *downtown*: Its exterior is the replica of a church in Lucca, Italy, but the ornamental interior of the 1925 landmark has been saddled with some decidedly modern furnishings: a McDonald's restaurant.

8. **Watts Towers**: "I set out to build something big," Simon Rodia said, and did he ever—seven "other-worldly beanstalks," as one critic called them, built over a period of 33 years out of steel, rods, and wire-reinforced cement, and covered with seashells, pieces of broken bottles, dishes, and pieces of wood.

9. **Coca-Cola Building**, *downtown*: Passers-by could be excused for thinking a 1937 ocean liner had parked on the corner of 13th and Central, 12 miles from the Pacific. Portholes, railings, and a ship's bridge adorn the face of what is actually a bottling plant. Owner Stanley Barbee felt the ocean image conveyed freshness and cleanliness.



10. **Herald Examiner Building**, *downtown*: William Randolph Hearst liked flamboyant buildings, even if they housed something as mundane as a newspaper. Since the *Herald Examiner* went out of business, the Moorish temple has found work—in the tradition of other vacant L.A. landmarks—as a movie set.

Photo credit

stand: a body shop in Glendale, a bar in Huntington Park, a Chinese restaurant in Montebello, and a Mexican restaurant in West L.A.

Their longevity was no surprise to Whizin.

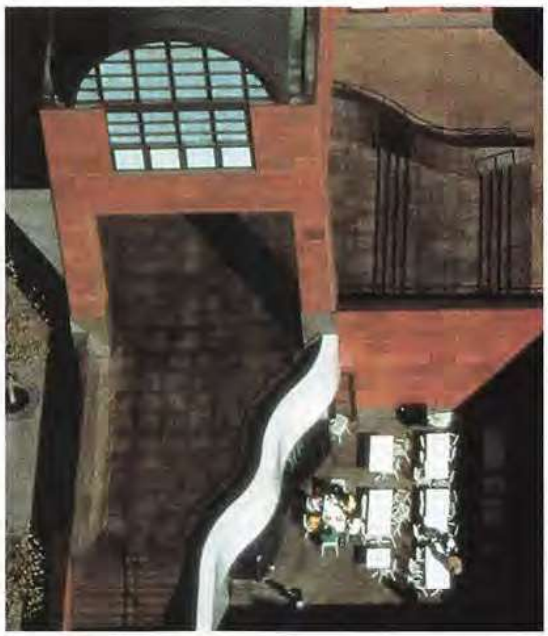
He once recalled that when the 1933 earthquake hit, his Huntington Park Chili Bowl "was the only building on the block that wasn't damaged. It's because of the circular shape—it gave evenly in all directions. The place was full and all twenty-eight customers ran outside. After a couple of minutes, they peered inside the window, saw everything was okay, and came back and finished their chili."

The original Brown Derby, once one of L.A.'s greatest tourist spots, closed in 1980, shunned by the city it had helped make famous. Part of the chapeau now sits in virtual anonymity atop a Korean restaurant just off Wilshire Boulevard, like a once-famous actor reduced to serving as a doorman.

Still, the Derby is in better shape than the 40-foot Tamale in East Los Angeles, whose teetotaling founder advertised "Tamales, but no beer." The tamale has been closed for years, literally a shell of its former self.

One of the oddest comebacks was staged by Chicken Boy, a 23-foot-tall plaster mascot that graced the roof of a now-defunct eatery in downtown Los Angeles. It was about to be destroyed when it was purchased by the Future Studio design firm. Today, the company publishes a mail-order catalog, "Chicken Boy for a Perfect World," offering everything from Chicken Boy watches to Chicken Boy headwear, complete with beak.

A new breed of weird: the Hamburger That Ate L.A., on Melrose (above), and the Museum of Contemporary Art as viewed from the air, featuring a fine example of the "Monroe Curve."



And Chicken Boy? "He's temporarily in a storage facility in Monterey Park," said spokeswoman Amy Inouye.

She added sadly: "We had to remove his head and put it between his legs to fit him in there."

The belated recognition of California Crazy architecture by authors such as Heimann and Philip Langdon (*Orange Roofs, Golden Arches*) and preservationist groups such as the Los Angeles Conservancy helped prompt recent resurgence in the form.

"I think there's a cyclical element, too," says historian Henstell. "For a long time, architects got away from ornamentation. Everything had to be straight, clean lines. The eighties weren't much fun for them. I think there's a return to flamboyance and outrageous stuff with Frank Gehry and others."

Gehry's concept for the Walt Disney Concert Hall in downtown L.A. has been termed "playful" by some critics—the walls appear to be falling down—and the first example of post-earthquake architecture by others.

The Seven Dwarfs, meanwhile, stand 10 feet tall in Burbank, where they have been pressed into labor as columns holding up the roof of the Walt Disney Company's corporate office. A serious work? Well, it was pictured on the cover of the *New York Times*' Sunday magazine.

Cars entering the parking garage at the Chiat Day/Mojo ad agency in Venice pass beneath a set of gargantuan binoculars. The lenses focus on the ground below–a commentary, perhaps, on the value of real estate.

And restaurant owner David Alderman was watching an old disaster movie one night when he came up with the idea for his Hamburger That Ate L.A., which now looms on Melrose Avenue. It's sort of a City Hall West, only Alderman's City Hall has a bite missing from it.

Perhaps the most unusual inspiration for exterior design is reflected in the gently undulating walls and railings of the Museum of Contemporary Art, which was designed by Japan's Arata Isozaki. He says they follow the contours of Marilyn Monroe's body in a famous nude pin-up photo of her.

Isozaki calls it the "Monroe Curve."

That's something the museum and the Tail o' the Pup have in common: the collision of art and nudity.

"A while back," Blake said, "someone showed me a picture in one of those skin magazines. They had a gal sitting on the end of the Pup, naked. Must have come out in the middle of the night to shoot it. Can you imagine that?" ☆

Museum of Contemporary Art

SPOTLIGHT

LET'S GET METAPHYSICAL

BY AL MARTINEZ

Welcome to southern California.

Let me dispel any notion that you are required to be registered with an agent, a shrink, or a psychic if you remain here longer than seven days. That is a rule imposed only on those associated with the entertainment industry.

An agent gets them work, a shrink keeps them working, and a psychic tells them how their dead mothers feel about it.

But agents and psychiatrists are elements of the temporal world, in contact with nothing more mystical than production companies and patients with dysfunctional libidos.

Psychics, on the other hand, open doors to, well...elevating metaphysical experiences, either through direct contact with the spirit world or by regressing us through mists of time to our past lives.

What, I hear you ask, has this got to do with football? Is there a Cosmic Bowl somewhere beyond our range of perception in which the Great Ones still go for the long bombs and where a Hail Mary takes on heavenly new significance?

On that, you'd have to check with actress Shirley MacLaine, who, as I understand it, is in constant touch with the Other Side through means not available to others. She would know about Cosmic Bowls.

All I know for sure is that the Los Angeles area abounds with people who can take you back to your past lives for an average fee of $25 a life, no checks or credit cards.

Among them is a tiny, wrinkled woman I know only as Sasha, who once took me back through a past life to where I was Yazoo, the running Indian, a champion at the game that preceded football. That is my contact with the sport and my reason, limp as it may seem, for being on this page today.

But before we get into past lives, let me explain that I always have been someone who, like Walter Mitty, was able to transport himself onto glorious planes of accomplishment through the simple medium of daydreams. I'm a mind-hero. As a kid, by simply closing my eyes, I was to the old gridiron what Madonna is to show biz, larger than life and spectacular in every respect, off field as well as on. When I scratched, thousands cheered. When I smiled, women fainted. The paparazzi trailed me everywhere.

On the field, I was beyond heroic. I was Joe Montana, Bart Starr, and Joe Namath rolled into one. I never missed. My spirals sailed through the air like angels. My handoffs were gifts from a god. In my daydreams, I was Bubba Martinez, Quarterback of the Ages.

I became so convinced that this fantasy-self existed that I decided to try out for high school football. It was a serious mistake. While I have since gained a few pounds (all in the wrong places) I was a skinny, jug-eared, 110-pounder in the eleventh grade at East Oakland's Castlemont High, whose football team had not lost a game in three years and whose line was heavier than that of most major universities.

"...I always have been someone who, like Walter Mitty, was able to transport himself onto glorious planes of accomplishment through the simple medium of daydreams. I'm a mind hero."

Coach Roy Richert, an amiable man with a forgiving attitude, could not believe I was serious. However, he also coached track and, because of my participation the prior season in what was then the 100-yard dash, he knew I was fast—at least for the first tenth of the run. I had a terrific start that quickly faded.

"If there were a ten-yard dash in the Olympics," he said to me once, "you'd be a world champion."

At any rate, my football tryout lasted less than two minutes. He handed me a ball and said, "Run through them." *Them* was the other players, who were instructed not to tackle me but simply to stop me. I started at them with my head lowered, zigging and zagging the way Red Grange had done it. I got past a couple of players who looked at the scene as something of a big joke. But then there appeared out of nowhere a 240-pound linebacker named Barney Kaminsky with arms longer than his legs, who slapped my back with both hands in a form of, well, a killer tag. It was as if I'd been shot.

I hit the ground with a slapping sound, face down, staggered bravely to my feet, and almost instantly got sick to my stomach. It was a mess. Worse, my right arm had been underneath me when I fell, still clutching the old pigskin, and had busted just above the wrist, ending my athletic career and convincing me for all time that Bubba Martinez was safer in my head. Later, I heard my mother explain to friends that I had fragile bones and vomited easily.

But I have never given up entirely on the metaphysical, into

which category daydreaming more or less falls, somewhere in the vicinity of past-life regression.

On certain lazy summer days, I still can propel myself back to the era of the Oakland Raiders and imagine I am Daryle (The Mad Bomber) Lamonica in the final 10 seconds of a game. I throw a bomb that sails 57 yards through the air while no one in the stands breathes until Fred Biletnikoff tips it into his arms with one finger and we win the game by a point.

I was raised in Oakland, you see, and began watching the Raiders in pre-Oakland Coliseum days when they still were playing on a small, makeshift field behind the Municipal Auditorium. There was a contest to name the team when it was first created. The winner was someone who wanted to name it the Oakland Señors, but that idea crashed and burned fast, and the Raiders were born.

My heroes were Lamonica and Biletnikoff and old George Blanda and Big Ben Davidson. When I daydreamed, I could imagine myself as Lamonica and Biletnikoff and even Blanda, but Big Ben? He was 6 feet 8 inches and I am 5-9, and there are some things even I just can't dream myself up to.

I moved to L.A. 20 years ago and the Raiders followed 10 years later, but it was never the same. Our love affair was over at that point. They are no longer the scruffy bunch on the east side of San Francisco Bay. They are the Chardonnay Raiders, somehow daintier and more cultural in their new environment. They don't drool and growl anymore.

Back to the metaphysical, my specific interest was triggered in the 1950s when a painfully shy Colorado housewife named Ruth Simmons was hypnotized and, under hypnosis, broke into a wild Irish jig and announced she was Bridey Murphy of 19th-century Belfast.

It was the beginning of a reincarnation fad, with Bridey Murphy as the Queen of Past Lives. There was a Bridey Murphy book, Bridey Murphy cocktails, Bridey Murphy cookies, and God knows how many come-as-you-were parties.

This began a current life-long fascination with the occult, which was the reason I began visiting past life regressionists and how I came to meet Sasha.

I had just seen the movie *Flatliners*, which was about near-death experiences and past lives, and decided to seek out someone who specialized in, as they say, the regressional arts. Sasha invited me into her dimly lit work room, ordered me into a comfortable chair, and asked if there were something personal of mine she could touch.

"Like what?" I asked suspiciously.

"Like a ring," Sasha said. She had a slight accent, which I think was contrived, and the vocal qualities of a chain saw.

She began rubbing the ring and appeared to be making some kind of psychic contact with my inner-being. Later, she admitted she really didn't need the ring, it was just a prop. Skeptics required a show.

As she lulled me into what was supposed to be a trance-like state, her voice lost its cutting edge and dropped to the kind of soothing level that comforts babies and athletes. She bade me close my eyes and relax. She asked me to visualize a psychic tunnel and to drift through it like a leaf in an autumn breeze, backward past my birth to a former life. There were long moments of silence and then she said:

"I see an Indian. He's running. I see tents. It's a village. It is

Illustrations by Gary Kelley

you. Your name is…" She paused several moments. "…Yazoo."

I opened my eyes. "Yazoo?"

"Close your eyes."

I closed them.

"Concentrate. You are the son of a chief. I sense berries and herbs. Can you visualize anything?"

"No," I said, giving my voice the same hushed quality.

"Nothing at all?" she said irritably.

"Nothing."

"It doesn't matter," she said. "Your soul remembers."

Yazoo was playing a game with other Indians. Sasha wanted to know if I had ever been an athlete. I lied and said I'd played a little football in high school. I thought about Barney Kaminsky and my heart filled with hate.

"Are you angry about something?" Sasha asked.

I quickly said no and swept the image of Barney from my mind. Sasha said she saw Yazoo clearly now. He was playing a game with a ball made from the innards of an animal. An oxen, perhaps.

"My God," I whispered, "the beginning of oxenball!"

Sasha ignored my comment. She was lost in the spirit world.

"You are to carry the animal innards to a mountain top," she said. "I see bears."

"Bears?" My eyes popped open again. I closed them quickly.

"Several bears. You are to run through the bears."

"The Bears versus the Indians," I said, suddenly aware of what was going on.

"I see you running. I see a woman. You are celibate."

"It's all that damned running."

"The bears…"

She stopped.

"You can open your eyes," she said.

"What about the bears?"

"I would rather not talk about it," she said, handing me back my ring. "I'll see you some other time."

I never did find out what happened to Yazoo. I suspect the game ended Bears 1, Yazoo 0.

That was several months ago. I went looking for Sasha again for the sake of this article, but she had disappeared—no doubt in a puff of smoke—and has not been seen since.

But in the course of searching for Sasha I did find Ed Helin, a big, good-humored man in a flowered shirt who has been an astrologer for 43 years and knows something about football, having played both in high school and the Army. In fact, he lays claim to having predicted the outcome of Super Bowl XXV in front of an astrology class of 200 students several weeks prior to the game.

Astrology, which dates back about 5,000 years, even before the time of Yazoo the Indian, is the practice of interpreting the influence of planets and stars on earthly affairs in order to predict the destinies of individuals, nations, or, in this case, teams.

Ed, who has tutored celebrities as diverse as Nancy Reagan and Clint Eastwood, calls it a combination of the scientific and the artistic, with some psychic intuition thrown in for good measure.

The practice has many doubters, including those who dismiss it as so much Taurus do-do—Taurus being, of course, the Zodiac bull. When journalist H.L. Mencken, a noted skeptic in his time, once was asked how he felt about moon and sun signs, he replied, with characteristic wit, "The other day a dog peed on me. A bad sign."

Ed shrugs off the skepticism by saying to those who regard astrology as an impossible pastime that, scientifically and aeronautically, it is also impossible for bumble bees to fly. But they do it just the same. While the parallel may lack Mencken's sting, you get the point. Big Ed believes in the stars.

He takes credit for having predicted not only the outcome of Super Bowl XXV, but also the tightness of the game and the failure of a last-minute field-goal attempt of the Buffalo Bills, which gave the contest to the New York Giants by a score of 20-19.

"Ed believes that today's game is being played between the Houston Oilers and San Francisco 49ers and that Houston will win it 24-10."

When I asked him to figure the fortunes of Super Bowl XXVII, he turned to his Digicomp DR-70. The Digicomp is a miniature computer. I realize it's a disappointment, but they don't use quills and scrolls anymore. The DR-70 churns out a hard copy of numbers and astrological symbols in a fraction of the time it once took to do by hand.

Ed punched in the date and approximate starting time of Super Bowl XXVII and, using computations he had already assembled, said it looks good for the American Football Conference. "Looks good" and "seems like" are phrases astrologers employ to leave an escape valve for predictions that go awry.

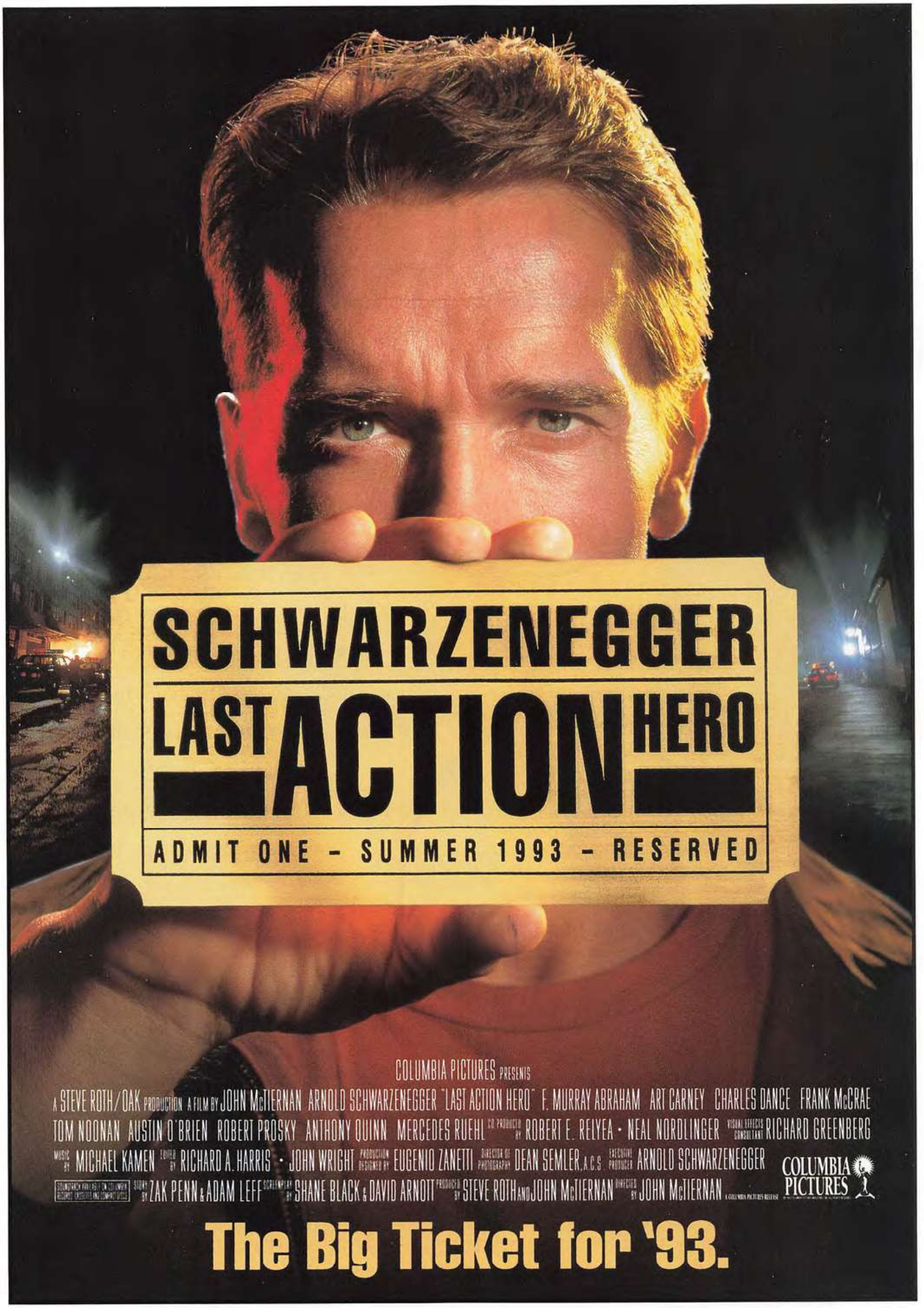
But Ed was nonetheless forthright when it came to calling today's winner. Bear in mind first that I'm writing this in mid-November, so his predictions are done from something of a distance. But that didn't bother Nostradamus, an astrologer who lived almost 500 years ago and whose prophecies are still being honored by students of the occult. Nostradamus, alas, didn't predict the outcome of Super Bowl XXVII, so we are left to rely on the prognosticative abilities of Big Ed Helin.

Ed believes that today's game is being played between the Houston Oilers and the San Francisco 49ers and that Houston will win it 24-10. The reason for that is the AFC is ruled by Capricorn and the NFC by Cancer and there are more power planets on the Oilers' side than on the side of the 49ers.

The stars further reveal to Ed that the Oilers' game plan will be unorthodox and full of surprises and, because of the presence of Neptune, is not above including what he calls "sneaky plays."

However Ed's predictions turn out, this much you can count on. I'll be there today, down on the field. I will be the wide receiver, 6-foot-5, a thing of grace and beauty who will leap toward the blue sky and pull a pass from the heavens with fingertips of gold to win the game in the last 10 seconds and imprint my name in the record books for all time to come.

Eat your heart out, Kaminsky. Look at the old guy now. ☆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PRO FOOTBALL

Because it happened 67 years ago, few people remember the day footballs rained from the sky in downtown Los Angeles. It was January, 1926, and the City of Angels, a gangly adolescent as far as metropolises go, was a year away from its first Ralphs supermarket and its first concrete footprints at Grauman's Chinese Theater (complimentary trivia answer: Norma Talmadge), and seven years too young for its first drive-in movie theater.

During his 1926 whistle stop in L.A., Red Grange takes time to pose with Hollywood beauties Lucille Pinson (left) and Mary McAllister, his co-star in One Minute to Play.

Today, a downpour of bloated leather spheroids might signal an explosion at the Farmer John sausage plant or a similarly bizarre environmental calamity: In 1926, it meant Red Grange was in town.

Grange, the halfback who almost single-handedly carried pro football into

From Red to the Rams to the Raiders, the Game Has Left Its Imprint on Los Angeles

BY PHIL BARBER

UNDER THE SUN

the national consciousness, was in the middle of his second barnstorming tour with George Halas's Chicago Bears. The tour had begun in Coral Gables, Florida, on Christmas Day, and would end in Seattle on January 31. Los Angeles was the midway point.

Grange's enterprising manager, C.C. (Cash and Carry) Pyle, was quick to exploit the area's unique photo opportunities. He posed Grange alongside Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks, and Charlie Chaplin, and with the Wrigley family at its Catalina Island retreat. And it was Pyle who conceived of having members of the Bears drop footballs off the roof of the Biltmore Hotel.

Five-thousand people gathered in the shadow of the hotel when they heard that anyone who made a clean catch would receive $25 (and the ball). Pyle lost only $100 in the deal, testimony to the velocity and movement attained by a football as it plummets 13 stories.

The publicity paid off. The Bears beat a thrown-together team called the L.A. Tigers before 65,270 spectators in the Los Angeles Coliseum. Pro football had migrated to L.A. Sooner or later, it seems, everyone and everything does.

Not that "football" often elicits the response "Los Angeles" in a word-association exercise. Green Bay is football. Pittsburgh is football. Los Angeles is, well, a million different things. The city has a rich and vibrant football history, but it has gotten lost in a haze of television and rock 'n' roll, surfing and Disneyland.

L.A.'s rich pro football tradition didn't exactly spring to life after Grange's Coliseum debut, either. If the eye-opening attendance excited professional promoters, it scared the daylights out of the city's college football powers, primarily USC and UCLA, who used their political clout to keep pro football out of the Coliseum and the Rose Bowl for the next two decades. With no access to a major venue in the area, the NFL couldn't justify the travel expenses involved in expanding to southern California.

Two Los Angeles-affiliated clubs—the Buccaneers in the NFL and the Wildcats in the original AFL—actually sprang up in 1926, but both were traveling teams that played their entire schedules on the road.

The Buccaneers' road show produced a 6-3-1 record, though the team had just 15 legitimate players on its roster. If its bench appeared stronger than that, it was only because manager Brick Muller dressed up friends and relatives in full uniform to deceive opponents. And you wonder how L.A. acquired a reputation for being "phony."

Los Angeles didn't appear in the NFL standings again until 1946, but the late thirties and early forties were

When the L.A. Bulldogs weren't playing their across-the-street rivals, the Hollywood Bears, they faced a variety of professional and semipro opponents, including the Pittsburgh Pirates, starring future U.S. Supreme Court Justice Byron (Whizzer) White (top).

Tom Allen/NFLP

That was the heyday of semipro clubs, most of which came and went like the Santa Ana winds.

the heyday of semipro clubs, most of which came and went like the Santa Ana winds. The menagerie included Mustangs, Cubs, Wolves, Stars, Rangers, and Braves.

The most enduring teams were the Los Angeles Bulldogs and the Hollywood Bears, sometimes members of the Pacific Coast Football League. Both clubs played at 20,000-seat Gilmore Field or at 30,000-seat Wrigley Field in South Central L.A. Gilmore was part of the Pan-Pacific sports complex, which included a baseball park and a basketball arena; Farmer's Market still stands next to the old stadium site.

The Bulldogs originally were owned by the Los Angeles County Council of the American Legion; all profits from games went to aid needy veterans. The club defeated two NFL teams—the Philadelphia Eagles and the Pittsburgh Pirates—in 1936, its inaugural season. The Eagles were terrible that year, but the Pirates were 6-6, so it's clear the stockholding Legionnaires had assembled a strong lineup.

Tom Allen/NFLP

The AAFC's Dons billed themselves as "America's Most Colorful Football Team." These pre-1950 game programs would seem to back both that claim and L.A.'s reputation as a graphic design capital.

The Bulldogs and Bears usually played one another about three times a year, but there were other foes to confront, teams such as the Sacramento Nuggets, the Salt Lake City Seagulls, the Fresno Crushers, the Phoenix Panthers, and those monsters of the mid-state, the Salinas Iceberg Packers. After the Pacific Coast League was organized in 1940, the Oakland Giants, the San Diego Bombers, and the San Francisco Clippers became annual opponents.

The pay wasn't great—$15, $20, $25 per game, plus gasoline money to San Diego or San Francisco—but it wasn't pay that convinced men to butt their leather-encased heads back in the 1940s.

"It was fabulous," Ben Agajanian says. "They had movie stars. In fact, Elyse Knox, later Tom Harmon's wife, was a starlet who sold hot dogs during the game. They had a lot of Hollywood people promoting."

Agajanian, in addition to his distinction as the first pure kicker in pro football history, must be recognized as the high authority of Los Angeles gridiron history. He played for the Bears, the Bulldogs, the Hollywood Rangers, the Dons of the All-America Football Conference, the Rams, and even the L.A. Chargers of the modern AFL.

In 1939, a cheap seat at Gilmore could be had for $1.10 (75 cents if purchased in advance at a Silverwood's store). That wasn't a bad bargain for a respectable level of football. UCLA heroes Kenny Washington and Woody Strode (who became the first black players in the NFL since 1933 when they signed with the Rams in 1946) played for the Bears, as did USC star Doyle Nave.

Celebrated quarterback Frankie Albert played for the Bulldogs in 1945 before launching a career with the San Francisco 49ers a year later. Albert, a product of Glendale High School, was signed by the Bulldogs to run coach Bill Sargent's curious "Impromptu T" formation, which allowed the quarterback to change the call, if desired, as the offense trotted up to the line of scrimmage.

Agajanian, like many others, played in the PCL while he was stationed in California during World War II. Like the others, he sometimes took precautions to avoid the wrath of his commanding officers.

"When I was with San Diego in 1944, they printed a program at the beginning of the year," Agajanian says. "Country Austin, number eighty-nine, was listed as an end. One week the guy came in and he was a great big black guy, and the next game he was a white guy. I used the name, too, but first I used 'Ben Aggie,' because I thought the service people would cause trouble.

"Later on, we got permission to play. So when I got hurt and I had surgery it was 'line of duty,' because the colonel at the base gave me permission to play. It was for servicemen, too; it was entertainment."

Sometimes the L.A. clubs played teams from the lo-

cal bases. In January, 1946, for instance, the Bears defeated a collection of Service All-Stars gleaned from Fleet City, the El Toro Marine base, and the Fourth Air Force. The All-Stars included college heroes Claude (Buddy) Young and Elroy (Crazylegs) Hirsch.

By the mid-1940s, however, the local Los Angeles clubs no longer could claim parity with the NFL teams. "It wasn't like playing major pro football," says Leo (The Lion) Cantor, who toiled for the Hollywood Bears after playing at UCLA. "It was mostly guys you'd played against at 'SC."

In 1946, Los Angeles was a city of 1.5 million people. It was ready for "major pro football"—and it got even more than it had hoped for. *Chicago Tribune* sports editor Arch Ward and others formed the All-America Football Conference, and a franchise was awarded to actor Don Ameche, who had been lobbying for an NFL team for some time. The Dons, it is claimed, were *not* named for Ameche.

The birth of the AAFC gave the NFL collective jitters. The new league made a legitimate claim to being "All-America," with a team in San Francisco as well as L.A. Not wanting to be shut out of western migration, the NFL honored the request of Dan Reeves, grocery magnate and owner of the Cleveland Rams, who had sought to move his club to Los Angeles since 1937.

So the City of Angels, without a major pro team in 1945, suddenly had two in 1946. And one of them, the Rams, was reigning champion of professional football: The team had won the NFL title in 1945, defeating Washington 15-14 on a frozen field at Cleveland's Memorial Stadium. Imagine, as an analogy, the Redskins beating the Bills in Super Bowl XXV, then relocating to Jacksonville for the 1992 season. The final obstacle was removed when the Los Angeles Coliseum Commission agreed to allow the professional teams to use its cavernous facilities.

H. Lee Hansen

H. Lee Hansen

Tailback Glenn Dobbs was one of the AAFC's biggest personalities. Dobbs (above), with a simulated Coliseum as a backdrop, films a promotion for local television station KTLA.

Though Ameche was recognized as the Dons' figurehead, the majority owner was another friend of Ward's, Ben Lindheimer, who owned Arlington Race Track in Chicago and soon purchased Hollywood Park in L.A.

Stars such as Joe Aguirre, Glenn Dobbs, Len Ford, and George Taliaferro made the Dons one of the most exciting teams in pro football, but the team always seemed to be one step behind the 49ers and two steps

Southern California good sport Bob Hope had ties to both the Dons and the Rams. Above: Hope can't resist kicking off at a Dons' game.

George Taliaferro (with ball) was the first black player ever drafted by an NFL club, the Bears. He passed up the opportunity and signed a $7,000 contract with the Dons.

H. Lee Hansen

NFL Photos

The Rams rejoice after their victory over the Browns in the 1951 NFL Championship Game. More than 40 years later, the franchise still awaits its next title.

to the rear of the Cleveland Browns, who dominated the AAFC throughout its four-year life span.

The Dons admitted high school football players free, and made further attempts to nurture area youth. Halftime entertainment featured Kid Football, teams of fully uniformed 12- and 13-year-olds who slipped under the 5-foot and 100-pound size restrictions.

Each 24-tyke team had an honorary celebrity coach: There were Bob Hope's Junior Dons, Al Jolson's Sonny Boys, Mickey Rooney's Fighting Irish, and a Jimmy Durante team. Members of the latter could glare across the line at another sub-five-footer and declare, "I am a Schnozzola."

In 1948 and 1949, the Dons' coach was Jim Phelan, whose four major football innovations were laid out in the team's 1948 press guide: "...calling defensive signals with the fingers, development of the weakside spinner attack from the Notre Dame box, first end-around play from the Notre Dame box, and the first use of silk football pants." It was, of course, the *combination* of the Notre Dame box and silk pants that frightened opponents most.

Like most football teams of the era, the Dons were made up almost entirely of war veterans. Tackle Lee Artoe was an underwater demolition expert in the Navy, and halfback Harry Clarke was shipwrecked for three days in the South Pacific. Guard Alex Agase's press guide biography included this description: "Led extreme right flank platoon in invasion of Okinawa...Is chatterbox on field."

Another of the Dons' employment practices wasn't so typical. "One thing we did that we were all very proud of," says Marge Everett, the daughter of owner Ben Lindheimer. "We probably put more emphasis on recruiting Negroes, as they were called at the time. We had one scout who was hired just to do the Negro colleges, and many fine players came from those colleges."

John (the Body) Brown was the first black player signed by the Dons, in 1947; he was followed by standouts such as Ford, now a member of the Hall of Fame, and Taliaferro, who was the first black player ever drafted by an NFL team (he passed up the opportunity with the Chicago Bears in 1949 and signed with the Dons).

A year before Brown joined the Dons, the Rams' Washington and Strode had broken the color barrier in the NFL. Was there something about southern California that encouraged racial integration in sports? Perhaps Los Angeles hadn't existed long enough as a metropolis to have fully developed its institutions of racism towards African-Americans. In other words, maybe there were fewer unwritten rules to be broken.

Tom Fears (with ball) originally was drafted by the Cleveland Rams, but by the time he finished his college studies, the club had moved to his native Los Angeles.

NFL Photos

Taliaferro, for one, says he encountered very little bigotry in L.A. The only incident that stands out to him now, as he enjoys retirement in Bloomington, Indiana, involves Jimmy Phelan, whom he describes as "a good football coach who tried to be fair."

"I am ambidextrous," Taliaferro begins. "In other words, I can throw with my left hand, but not as well as my right hand. I played left halfback in the T formation. We put in a play that had the quarterback receive the ball and toss it to me, running to my left. And I had the option, if the cornerback came up, to throw the ball; if the cornerback fell back to cover the receiver, I would run with the ball. And for practice sake, [Phelan] wanted the back to come up.

"I never even thought about it. I just caught it and, realizing the guy was open, I threw it left-handed. And Jimmy Phelan then showed his prejudiced side to me by saying he 'didn't want any Globetrotters on his ball club.'"

The Dons drew inconsistently at first, but they doubled their attendance to about 43,000 per game in 1947, and they actually outdrew the Rams in 1948.

"We put on a program after 1946 where we went around to all the service clubs in the area and pitched season tickets," says Charlie O'Rourke, who quarterbacked the Dons for two seasons. "We'd go to luncheons and gatherings at the Rotary Club and places of that nature and talk about selling tickets, and they'd fill out cards and we'd collect them."

By the end of the decade, most of the AAFC clubs were going bankrupt. The Dons were an exception. Sadly, however, Lindheimer had a severe heart attack in September, 1949, and his doctors convinced him to get out of the football business. He was unable to help prop up the league, and it folded before the 1950 season.

The Dons' presence from 1946-49 made things tougher on the Rams than they had envisioned when they left Cleveland. As a world-championship team quarterbacked by L.A. demigod Bob Waterfield, they figured to be met with open arms. But from 1946 to 1948, the Rams finished no better than 6-4-1, and just as important to Dan Reeves, they lost money.

In 1949, the Rams won over the city. They finished 8-2-2, captured the NFL Western Division, and were given the home site for a championship game against the powerful Philadelphia Eagles. But then the impossible occurred. On December 18, the day of the title game, a rainstorm hit southern California.

The crowd, expected to approach 100,000 at the Coliseum, was 22,245. And the Rams' feared passing attack got stuck in the mud while Eagles halfback Steve Van Buren galloped for 196 yards, leading his team to a 14-0 victory. After the game, Philadelphia coach Greasy Neale added insulting pun to injury, observing, "There are times when a coach's best friend is his mudder [Van Buren]."

In 1951, it finally happened. The 8-4 Rams somehow knocked off Paul Brown's 11-1 Cleveland team in the NFL title game, and Los Angeles enjoyed its moment as pro football's capital city.

The win came before 57,522 in the Coliseum. Midway through the fourth quarter, end Tom Fears broke a 17-17 tie when he caught a pass from Norm Van Brocklin at the 50-yard line and sped for the winning touchdown. When victory was theirs, the Rams endeavored to carry coach Joe Stydahar from the field. But Stydahar's nickname was Jumbo—he weighed 300 pounds—and the giddy players had to set him down after a few paces.

Stydahar's nickname was Jumbo—he weighed 300 pounds—and the giddy players had to set him down.

Little did the Angelenos in attendance realize that it would be 32 years before a home team (the Raiders) won another title game at the Coliseum. The Rams had another shot in 1955, but they fell to the vengeful Browns 38-14.

The Rams' teams of the 1950s were among the most potent in NFL history. They had not one, but two Hall of Fame quarterbacks—Waterfield and Van Brocklin—and the likes of Fears, Crazylegs Hirsch, Dan Towler, and Paul (Tank) Younger as offensive weapons.

The Rams became part of the Hollywood veneer that was pasted over Los Angeles. "Tom Harmon married a star," Fears remembers, "Bob Waterfield married a star [Jane Russell]. Quite a few others used to hang around with stars. I wasn't a Hollywood guy."

(Eventually, the Rams' glamorous image would come to haunt them. In 1980, the *Los Angeles Times* conducted an informal survey of 33 Rams and found, to everyone's surprise, that only eight wore designer jeans, just one hung out at the Polo Lounge, and only one had appeared on "Hollywood Squares.")

Quarterback Bill Wade summed up the experience in a Rams' history book by Joseph Hession: "I'll never forget Bob Hope [who owned interest in the team]

Vic Stein

Bob Waterfield (left) and Norm Van Brocklin, who played together for the Rams from 1949 through 1952, were the greatest pair of quarterbacks ever to pass for the same team. They also initiated a dubious L.A. tradition—the quarterback controversy—that lives to this day.

Vic Stein

Led by quarterback Jack Kemp (15), the L.A. Chargers advanced to the AFL title game in 1960. Unfortunately, they played before numerous empty seats in the vast Coliseum, prompting a move to San Diego.

The *Los Angeles Times* conducted a survey of 33 Rams and discovered that only eight wore designer jeans.

During the 1960s, Rams fans were treated to an abundance of individual stars—Ollie Matson, Merlin Olsen, Deacon Jones, Roman Gabriel, Dick Bass, Tom Mack—but inconsistent teams. Throughout that period, however—in fact, every January from 1951 to 1972—there was another source of NFL action to occupy the fans: the Pro Bowl. For those 21 years, Los Angeles sunshine was dangled like a carrot in front of the best players in the league.

Actually, a forerunner to the Pro Bowl was played at L.A.'s double-decked Wrigley Field in January, 1939. It pitted the NFL-champion New York Giants against a team of Pro All-Stars that included Washington's Sammy Baugh, Chicago's Joe Stydahar, and Green Bay's Clarke Hinkle.

Each team spent two weeks practicing in L.A., the Giants at Riviera Country Club in Santa Monica and the All-Stars in Griffith Park. The Giants won 13-10, but they were aided by a Wrigley Field peculiarity. Because the field primarily was set up for baseball, one of the end zones was shallower than the regulation 10 yards. All-Star Bob McChesney discovered exactly how shallow when he crashed into the centerfield wall and dropped a potential touchdown pass.

Two more of these prototype Pro Bowls were played in Los Angeles, both at Gilmore Stadium, but another, scheduled for January, 1942, was moved to the Polo Grounds in New York. In the wake of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, public officials feared any large gathering might invite a Japanese attack on the West Coast.

The series disappeared a year later, and wasn't resumed until 1951, when it assumed a more modern setup: all-stars from each NFL conference playing in the Los Angeles Coliseum.

Vic Stein

Ben Agajanian booted for the Bulldogs, the Bears, the Dons, the Rams, and the Chargers (above).

sending me a Christmas card one year. It was a lot different than anything I'd experienced in Nashville."

The Rams thrived in Los Angeles, so much so that when a new American Football League was formed in 1960, the organizers figured the city could support a second franchise. Owner Barron Hilton liked the name "Chargers" because, in addition to its symbolizing both a coursing electrical charge and a charging horse, it tied in nicely with Hilton's new Carte Blanche credit card.

Head coach Sid Gillman managed to field a powerful offense in 1960, led by Jack Kemp at quarterback. "We had a pickup team that Gillman did a hell of a job with," says Agajanian, who was coaxed out of a two-year retirement. "Paul Lowe was a halfback who would dance around and run crazy. He was returning punts one time and he fair caught the ball, and, as soon as he caught it, he flipped it to one of the guys on the other team. The guy runs for a touchdown—the whistle didn't blow."

The Chargers finished 10-4 and won the AFL West, but when they wrapped up the division title with a victory over Denver, only 9,928 lonely fans were there to see it at the Coliseum. Obviously, the team had not taken root in Los Angeles. After the season, Hilton announced the Chargers would be moving to San Diego.

According to Paul Maguire, who played linebacker and punter for the Chargers and now provides color commentary for NBC, the players didn't shed many tears on the drive south. "We just wanted to play," Maguire says, "it didn't make any difference where. And they actually got us jobs building the upper deck in Balboa Stadium during the offseason."

NFL Photos

Super Bowl VII (left) was the last played in the Coliseum. Today's game is the fifth Super Bowl to take place at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena.

During its 22 years at that venue, the Pro Bowl boasted the greatest football players of multiple generations, from Y.A. Tittle and Marion Motley to Gale Sayers and Johnny Unitas to Roger Staubach and Larry Csonka.

Dick Butkus, the Chicago Bears' Hall of Fame linebacker, visited Los Angeles seven times for the Pro Bowl, and, as far as he's concerned, L.A. was the place.

"I'd always bring out my brother or a friend," Butkus remembers. "We'd make a trip of it. I'd get this limo from a friend of mine and we'd go to Vail, Colorado, because this priest friend of mine's family owned a place there. We'd ski for a couple days and then we'd go to Vegas. And then we'd come here [Butkus has lived in Los Angeles since 1982]. I'd always tell them I was bringing my wife, so I'd get a bigger room. I would sneak my brother and his friends in the back door.

"I think it was on Thursday night, they'd have the CBS party, and they'd get to mix with Carol Burnett and all the stars. They'd get a kick out of it."

David Boss

Bears linebacker Dick Butkus squeezed a lot of roadside attractions into his seven trips to Los Angeles for the Pro Bowl.

Beginning in 1973, the NFL took the Pro Bowl on tour. It went to a different city each year, then returned to L.A. for a final rendition in 1979. More than 13,000 ticket-holders stayed home that night as the thermometer dropped to 40 degrees (don't snicker, Easterners, it was only 37 with the wind-chill factor) at the Coliseum. The series left for Hawaii the next year.

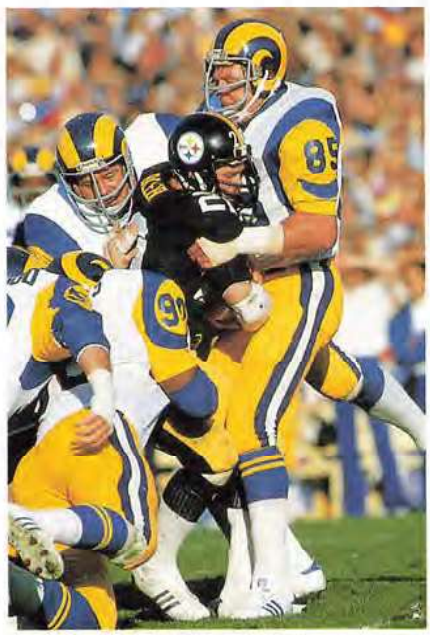
The Pro Bowl was fun, but, in L.A. terms, it couldn't get a last-minute dinner reservation if it competed with the Super Bowl, which was spawned at the Coliseum in January, 1967.

Super Bowl I was the only edition that wasn't sold out. But if that game appeared underattended, it is the capacity of L.A.'s arenas that keeps bringing the game back to the city. The four previous games in the Rose Bowl—XI, XIV, XVII, and XXI—were the best-attended in Super Bowl history, and the second game in the Coliseum—Super Bowl VII—ranks fifth.

The Super Bowl can't possess Los Angeles, as it did Minneapolis a year ago, but, in a way, it is a perfect showpiece for the self-proclaimed entertainment capital of the world.

Of course, covering a game in such a spread-out urban expanse presents unique problems. At Super Bowl XIV, for example, reporters received a 17-page stack of maps and driving directions to the various points of relevance. One day, writers staying at the Marriott near Los Angeles International Airport took a bus 47 miles to the Newport Beach Marriott, where the Steelers were staying, then rode eight miles to the South Coast Plaza Hotel, where the Rams had gathered, then chugged back to the airport. The complete circuit was 95 miles, the elapsed time five hours.

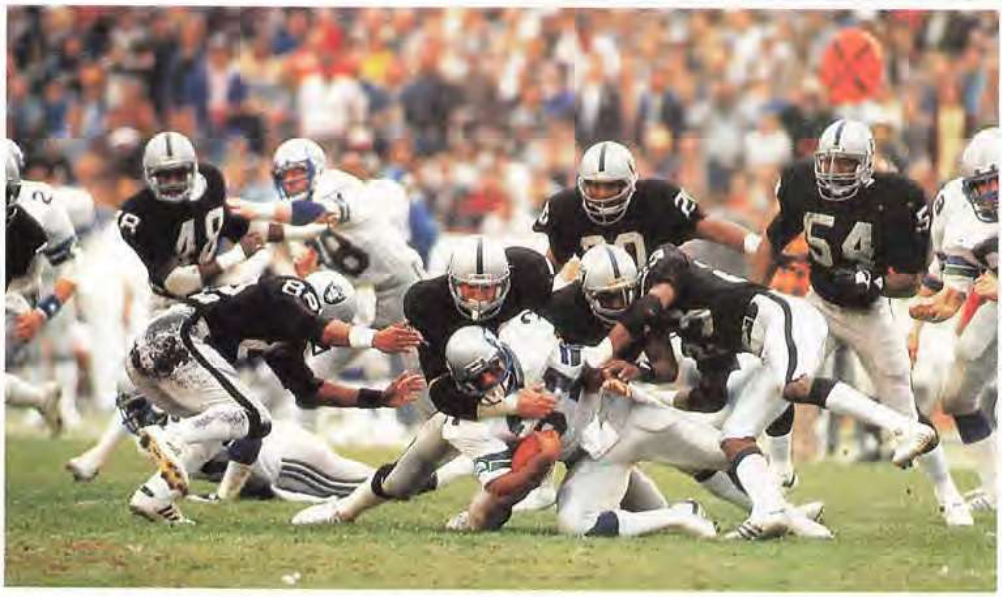
Super Bowl XIV was special in that, along with the 49ers-Dolphins clash at Stanford Stadium in XIX, it is the closest there has been to a home-game Super Bowl. The Rams had made it to an NFL title showdown for the first time since 1955.



Malcolm Emmons

Watching him tackle Pittsburgh's Rocky Bleier (left), one could hardly guess that Jack Youngblood (85) played Super Bowl XIV with a broken leg. The Rams fought gamely but came up short against the Steelers.

That XIV was played at the Rose Bowl, rather than the Rams' Coliseum home, actually may have benefited the club. The 1979 Rams were the most disrespected and generally unloved Super Bowl team on record. After announcing during the previous season that they'd be moving to Anaheim Stadium in 1980, they weathered the death of owner Carroll Rosenbloom (whose command was assumed by his wife Georgia, still the franchise owner today)



Rob Brown

In only their second season after relocating from Oakland, the Raiders mauled Seattle at home in the AFC title game (above), then brought the NFL championship banner home to L.A.

and staggered through a rocky 9-7 season, then shocked everyone by knocking off Dallas and Tampa Bay in the playoffs.

Following their final home game ever at the Coliseum, a 29-14 loss to New Orleans, they were booed from the field. "Let 'em boo," said one unidentified Rams player as he cringed under the chorus. "I hope the ones that did boo get lost on the way to Anaheim."

Many did miss the bandwagon as it headed south, despite the Rams' gutty performance in a 31-19 loss to the heavily favored Pittsburgh Steelers. But the Rams formed a new, immediately loyal fan base in Orange County. And according to former defensive end Jack Youngblood, most of the players already were living in Orange County bedroom communities such as Newport Beach, Costa Mesa, and Westminster.

When the Rams vacated the Coliseum, Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley quickly appointed a search committee to pursue the transfer of another NFL franchise. The timing, as it happened, was perfect to lure the Raiders, who were engaged in a bitter dispute with the Oakland Coliseum Commission.

A two-year legal battle between Al Davis and his fellow NFL owners, who did not want the Raiders to leave Oakland, ended on May 7, 1982, when a federal jury ruled in favor of the Raiders. There was a new hometown team, and football in Los Angeles never would be the same.

As the Rams ascended to popularity in 1950, the city of Los Angeles had slightly less than 2 million people. By 1980, that figure had swelled to nearly 3 million, and the influx dramatically changed the area's demographics. The 1990 census revealed that "minority" had become a misleading term in Los Angeles: Hispanics account for 40 percent of the city's population, making them Los Angeles's largest ethnic group.

It was this new demographic base that greeted the Raiders. Largely disadvantaged economically and with few large-scale symbols of civic pride, young Hispanic males flocked to *Los Raiders* like orphans who suddenly found a long-lost big brother.

Former tight end Todd Christensen, who made the move south in 1982, says it was hard to adjust to the differences between Oakland and Los Angeles. "One particular instance comes to mind," Christensen remembers. "It was about my sixth game with Oakland in 1979. I was leaving after a game and there was this group of about four people in front of me. As a third-string tight end I was a nobody, but they were waiting for me.

"I tried to get around them and they stopped me and said, 'You're Todd Christensen, right?' And I said, 'Yes.' And one of them says, 'That was a hell of a block you had on that punt return in the middle of the third quarter.' And I'm thinking to myself, 'My God, these people really pay attention.'

"To contrast that with the Los Angeles situation—and again, this is only one isolated incident, so it doesn't speak for everybody—I remember talking with somebody about the fact that he had a friend who was a cousin of Marcus [Allen's], and he had gone to lunch with him. And I remember thinking to myself, 'Man, that's very L.A.'"

> **King:**
> **"If you don't win with flair, there are too many things people can turn their attention to on Sunday."**

The Raiders' first four years in Los Angeles were eminently successful. They included a Coliseum victory over Seattle in the 1983 AFC Championship Game, a subsequent triumph over Washington in Super Bowl XVIII, and some of the largest crowds in NFL history. The Silver and Black hit rough times from 1986 to 1988, and the team's relationship with its partisans has run hot-and-cold since.

From Red Grange to Howie Long, Los Angeles has etched an indelible impression on the men who have played football there, especially those who came from more bucolic locales.

"Biggest place I've ever seen in my life," is Taliaferro's first impression. "Spread out...warm...smog was thicker than dust. Automobiles everywhere...and a lot of friendly people."

"I was scared to death," echoes Youngblood, who grew up in Monticello, Florida, a town of about 2,500 just out-

side of Tallahassee. "You talk about country comin' to town, now. It was as big a sociological change as anyone could ever expect."

Players such as these usually had to lean on more experienced teammates or family friends until they felt comfortable enough to drive in the fast lane of the freeways. Once they were acclimated, Los Angeles became a vibrant and enjoyable place to be in the sports business.

"I've told people before," Christensen says, "If I'm single, or if it's just my wife and me, then I stay. [He lives in Alpine, Utah, now.] I love Los Angeles, and I did long before Randy Newman's song. But the reality for me was that I had to give my family a shot at this concept they refer to as 'quality of life.' I certainly miss the access. I miss some great places to eat. I miss running on the beach. I miss the weather."

Taliaferro grew so fond of L.A. that he moved back to the area with his wife in 1953, even though he played for Baltimore at the time. "We looked in the Crenshaw district and we were told that the [proposed] Santa Monica Freeway might come through the area. So instead of moving there, we bought a home out near Culver City—and darn if the freeway didn't come right over and take the house."

Sure enough, if you drive to where Adams Boulevard dead-ends at Interstate 10, you can see what used to be the Taliaferro residence. It's now a sprawling concrete leviathan.

Agajanian, born in Santa Ana and raised in San Pedro, was so enamored with Los Angeles that, after starting a chain of successful discount stores in the area, he decided he would kick only for L.A. teams, or teams that would let him fly back and forth for games.

Even those players who became star-struck are unanimous in voicing one complaint, however: It's hard to induce foaming at the mouth in Los Angeles fans.

"The people out here weren't as loyal to the Rams as they were back East or in the Midwest, like Detroit or Chicago," says Tom Fears, who grew up at the corner of Western and 38th in southwest L.A. "We had people from all over who came out, johnny-come-latelies, so they didn't have the loyalty those other teams get. In fact, when you run out on the field and the other team runs out on the field, there's just as big a cheer for *them*."

"The other thing," adds Bill King, radio voice of the Raiders since 1966, "is that even if you have ninety-thousand [in the Coliseum] and they make a hell of a lot of noise, it dissipates into the air because you don't have that tightly focused stadium, with the fans closer, where the noise tends to be funneled across and down. At the Oakland Coliseum, or in Pittsburgh, the sound can be phenomenal. In L.A., the sound doesn't come down where it has that effect on a visiting team."

Gerald Gallegos

Rob Brown

Rai-ders! Rai-ders! The demographics of Los Angeles have changed dramatically since the Rams came to town in 1946, and the Silver-and-Black has successfully tapped into the new base of fan support.

And it is King who mentions perhaps the hardest thing about playing football in Los Angeles: competing stimuli. "More than in some places," he says, "it's vital to win, and maybe even to win with flair. Because if you remember the Chuck Knox years [1973-77], when the Rams were in the playoffs every year, knocking on the door at Super Bowl time, I think the almost-unanimous judgment was, 'Jesus, they're dull.'

"If you don't win with flair, there are too many things people can turn their attention to on a Sunday afternoon."

In the end, football personalities are like other Angelenos. Sometimes they love their city, sometimes they hate it, mostly they just get carried along by it like a roller-coaster car. Rather than attempting to distill the city in a paragraph—a bit like trying to pluck smog with chopsticks—it's better to leave you with the rousing verse of the L.A. Dons' fight song:

We'll bring back the golden days
Of California's gay Don Juans
With a gang we are proud of always,
Proud sons of California Dons.
Now the stories tell that they were devils with the ladies,
But when things got tough they would fight like fiends from Hades.
So Hail to the their gallant sons
And fight for our Los Angeles Dons. ☆

THEY CAME FROM THE NFL

Starring Jim Brown, Alex Karras, Merlin Olsen, Fred Dryer, and Many Other Pro Football Stars

BY SCOTT AND KATHY OSTLER

The Hollywood cutting room can be a cold and ruthless place.

Anthony Davis knows. His pro football days shortened by injuries, Davis thought he had stumbled into a promising career in movies in 1976. A.D., "discovered" while sitting in the stands at a USC football game, was given the role of SWAT team leader Eugene Brooks in *Two-Minute Warning*.

"I worked a month on that movie," Davis says.

But in the final cut, many of Eugene Brooks's finest cinematic moments had fallen, like celluloid autumn leaves, to the cutting-room floor. Davis's dialogue was whittled to one word.

"Yo."

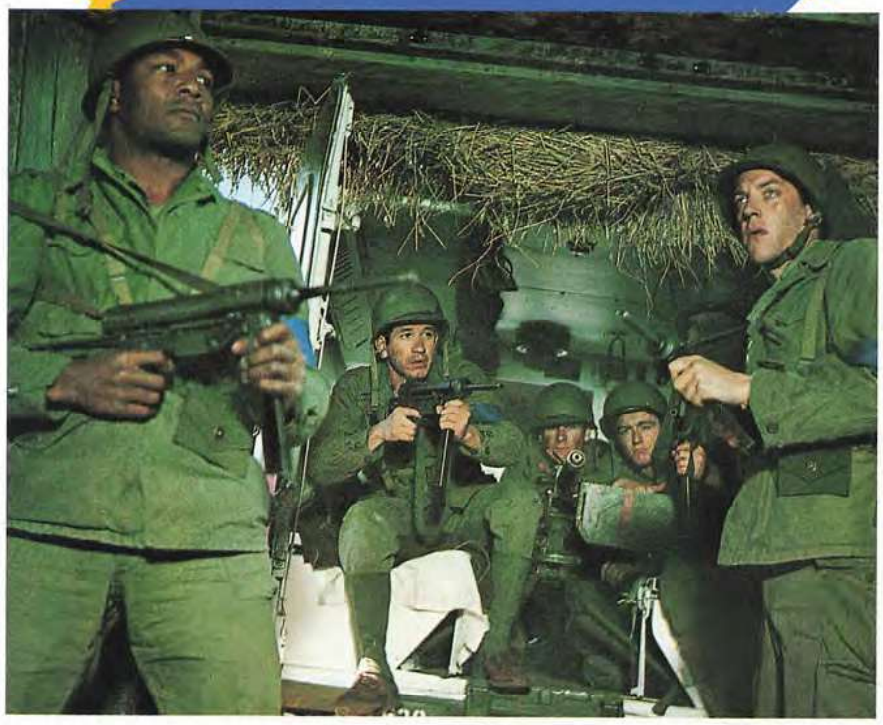
But it was a strong "Yo." It led to other film and television work for Davis, a nice part-time career that continues to this day.

Davis is not alone. One of the great romance stories of all time is Hollywood's love affair with NFL players. Since Red Grange starred in *One Minute To Play* in 1926, scores of NFL players have appeared in hundreds of movies and TV shows.

"They want a football player and I want the money and to be on the screen, so let's go," says the legendary Jim Brown, explaining the system that made him a major box office star in the '60s and '70s. "You have a name and a body, you put it on the screen, like Marilyn Monroe.

"I had a hell of a career, played a lot of good roles, got beautiful women, got killed a lot, jumped off stagecoaches, shot guns, and rode horses off into the sunset."

What could be cooler? Or easier? As Gene Washington, the former 49ers wide receiver who briefly worked in Hollywood, says, "Every football player thinks he can become an actor."



Hall of Fame running back Jim Brown had "a name and a body," so he put them on the screen. His Hollywood fare has consisted mostly of blood-and-lust films such as* The Dirty Dozen *(above, the glowering Brown at left).

The credit—or blame—for much of this must go to Red Grange (left), who signed a multi-film contract when he visited Los Angeles on a barnstorming tour in 1926.

Hollywood Rule Number 1—Be a football player. More than 100 NFL players have taken movie or TV turns, and several have become big stars. Try to name big league baseball or basketball players who ever did anything of significance in Hollywood. It will be a short list. The late Chuck (Rifleman) Connors comes to mind, but his major league career spanned 67 games.

Why do NFL players dominate the screen? There are theories.

One is that football players are trained to attack—opponents, post-career jobs, whatever.

"I think baseball players are lulled to sleep by their lifestyle," says former Rams defensive end Fred Dryer.

Several years ago a famous baseball player, still in the game today, was offered a semi-regular role in a dramatic TV series, "Emerald Point," starring Dennis Weaver.

"It was a great role and the player was all set to go," our source tells us, "until he found out he'd have to get up at 5 A.M."

Joe Namath's foray into the cinema didn't equal his Super Bowl III performance as a reputation-builder.

Most of them think wrong. But enough have succeeded to keep alive the dream of football as a springboard to the silver screen.

How many have made the leap? Don't ask. Putting together a definitive list is tough because you keep getting memos like this from your editor: "Don't forget that Ray Nitschke, in addition to his major role in *The Longest Yard*, also made an appearance in *Head*, the Monkees' psychedelic musical."

As if anyone could forget the only movie to combine the screen talents of Nitschke, Jack Nicholson, and Annette Funicello.

"It was the middle of my football career [1968]," Nitschke relates, "and someone phoned and told me he had a cameo role for me in a movie with the Monkees. I said, 'Who the hell are the Monkees?'

"Anyway, I agreed. I went to Hollywood and Jack Nicholson showed me around for a week. We had a great time. I didn't realize he was an actor until we started filming. He played a goofy kid and I played a shell-shocked football player."

Obviously, extensive knowledge of the industry and great acting range are not requisites for working in the movies. Still, it's not always as easy as it looks, and any football player "actor" should know the rules.

Another theory is that football players have an aura, that they are seen as heroic and somewhat dangerous. Cecil Fielder smashes baseballs for a living. Ray Nitschke smashed humans.

"Football players are warriors, they are like knights in armor," says agent Gary Wichard, who made Brian Bosworth a movie star by exploiting the warrior image.

A big frame and a big name, a sneer, snarl, glare, or glower goes a long way in Hollywood. John Matuszak, before his untimely death in 1989, carved out a solid movie and TV career. He studied acting and was beginning to land serious acting roles, but his entrée into the acting business was his ability to seem like a huge, scary guy.

***Football players often are recruited to play big, scary brutes, epitomized by John Matuszak (above, with Ringo Starr) in* Caveman.**

Merlin Olsen got his first movie role because he is large. Rosey Grier, Ben Davidson, Lyle Alzado, Carl Eller, Anthony Muñoz, and many others have done the hulking thing.

Jim Brown took the menacing aura and ran with it, through 17 movies between 1964 and 1978. Before Brown, football players, especially black players, rarely were given roles of substance.

Harry Thompson, a Rams' guard from 1950-54, got his Screen Actors Guild card while he was a student at UCLA, and through the years worked in dozens of major movies, including *The Robe* and *The Greatest Story Ever Told*. He played an Egyptian litter-bearer, or a native in Tarzan movies, or a Nubian guard fanning the Three Stooges.

It was good offseason work for Thompson, but there were barriers.

Jim Brown busted through the barriers. He became, according to one movie encyclopedia, "The first bona fide black male sex symbol of the American screen."

Taking part in the movie* Texas Ranger *was second nature to an old ranch hand like Sammy Baugh (at right).

His first role, in the western *Rio Conchos*, came near the end of his playing career.

"The film came out all right," Brown says, "I took my shirt off, naturally. That was the character of films I did, that I had to take my shirt off once or twice..."

Next came Brown's most famous role, Robert Jefferson in *The Dirty Dozen*. He died in a blaze of machine-gun fire and glory.

"We did most of the filming in London," Brown says, "and it was a great experience, the most fun I've ever had. Lee Marvin, John Cassavetes, Ernest Borgnine, George Kennedy, Donald Sutherland...I was like a rookie and they accepted me."

So did Hollywood. Brown had major roles in movies such as *100 Rifles*, *Ice Station Zebra*, and *Tick, Tick, Tick...*

"I did everything John Wayne and Paul Newman did," Brown says. "In *The Split*, I was the man, the brains. I was the first black guy to deal with white female superstars—Raquel Welch, Stella Stevens, Jackie Bisset. And it wasn't done in a hesitant way, it was straight-up romance or sex."

When his star cooled somewhat in the seventies, Brown got out of acting. Today he's head of a foundation in Los Angeles working to break up gangs and build self-esteem in inner-city youths.

"I had a good run," Brown says. "I was hot, I was a number-one star, I was bankable. I could be out hustlin' second-rate parts now, but I don't really care. There were some moments that were great, but nothing compares to changing lives, or to the violence of contact sport.

"I enjoyed making movies, but it was like a lazy man's existence. You get a big old trailer, and fruit and snacks all the time. You can eat yourself to death."

Let that be a warning.

Hollywood Rule Number 1A—Don't be a DB, QB, WR, or OL.

There are almost no exceptions to this rule. The big Hollywood football stars in recent years have been ex-running backs such as Brown, O.J. Simpson, and Ed Marinaro, or up-front defensive guys such as Olsen, Alex Karras, Matuszak, Bosworth, Carl Weathers, Bubba

Smith, Dick Butkus, Dryer, and Ben Davidson.

Weathers went from linebacking for the bad-boy Raiders (1970-71) to being the bad guy (Apollo Creed) who traded blows with Sylvester Stallone in *Rocky* movies.

It's obvious why running backs are popular in movies: They're always glamorous and usually pretty.

But why no quarterbacks? Joe Namath flopped as a movie star; so did Roman Gabriel. Despite the glamour of the position, no quarterback has become a Hollywood fixture.

Here's Dryer's explanation: "Quarterbacks are too busy watching themselves being looked at, so it's difficult for them to lose who they are, which you have to do to be an actor."

Offensive linemen don't cut it, Ed Marinaro feels, "because basically they are victims—they sit there and let other people beat up on them. No one looks at them, and they never get to dance. They don't have egos. The hardest thing for an athlete trying to be an actor is that you have to expose yourself, be willing to look silly. Watch a game and see who's doing all the dancing."

And Dryer says, "Defense is a bunch of wild, undisciplined guys working together...like acting."

The players who do well on the screen have something in common. During their NFL days, they ranged from outgoing to outrageous. They were the funniest or the most profound postgame interviews. They were never reluctant stars, never shy.

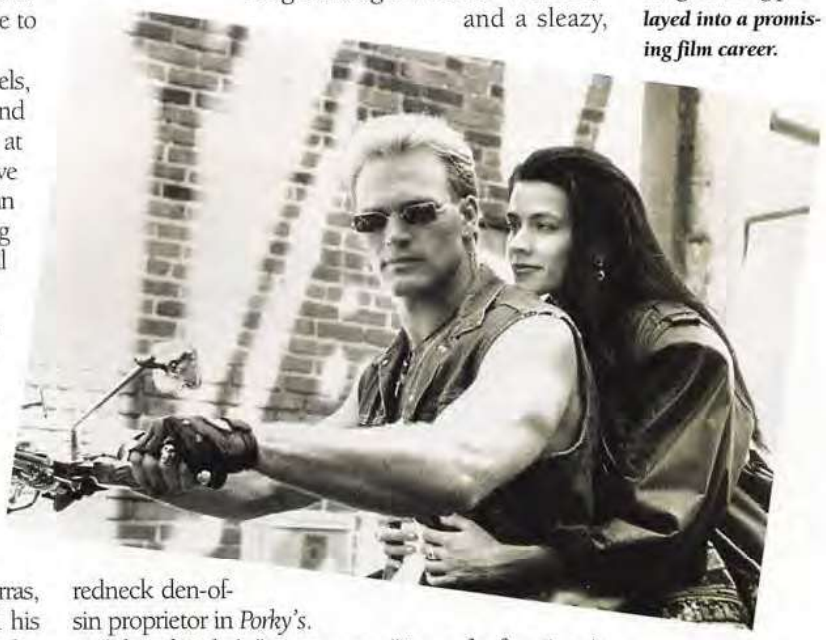
This attitude works well in Hollywood. Alex Karras, for instance, used an assertive approach to land his breakthrough role as Mongo, the crazy cowboy who punched out a horse in *Blazing Saddles*.

"I was working on a film at Warner Brothers," Karras says, "and a friend sent me the *Blazing Saddles* script. When I read the scene with Mongo and the horse, I knew it would be one of the funniest comedy visuals ever. I *had* to have the part.

"It was lunch time, a hot day. I was walking on the lot when I saw a sign that said, 'Blazing Saddles Casting.' I peeked into the bungalow and Mel Brooks was sitting there by himself, talking on the phone.

"I walked in, grabbed a chair, slammed it over his desk, and said, 'I want to play Mongo!' He said, 'You got it kid, you got it!'"

Of all the player/actors, Karras probably has ranged the furthest afield. He was a German immigrant farmer in the miniseries "Centennial," a loving father in the long-running TV series "Webster," and a sleazy, redneck den-of-sin proprietor in *Porky's*.



Brian Bosworth played only 24 NFL games, but his rogue image is being parlayed into a promising film career.

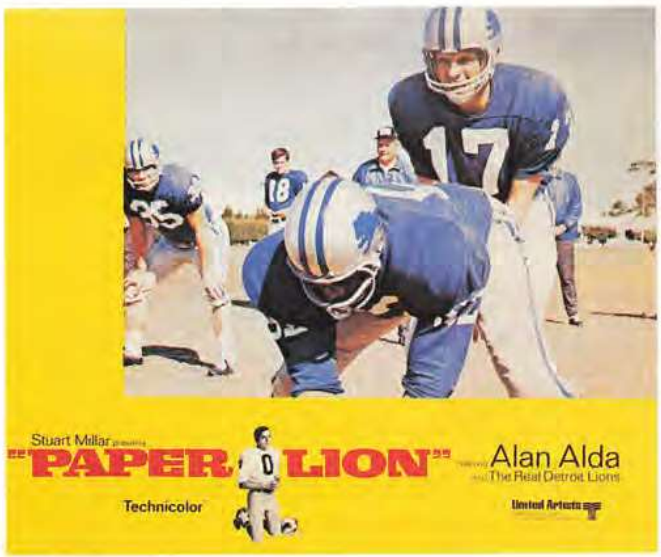
"I loved *Porky's*," Karras says. "It was the first time in this country that kids were able to discuss on film what they're totally involved with at age fifteen, which is sex. It was a breakthrough and I wanted to be part of it. It was a great film."

Karras, who currently is producing a movie adaptation of his book, *Tuesday Night Football*, pledged his destiny to Hollywood by the time he was 7 years old.

"My dad had a doctor's office on top of the Grand Theater in Gary, Indiana," Karras says. "When I was five or six, I would walk to his office and wait 'til he got off work, and we'd go down to the theater and see all the movies. I got hooked. In high school, I took drama classes and was in lots of plays and musicals.

"Acting is a dream I had when I was a kid. There was never a question in my mind that this was what I was going to do with my life."

Karras played football strictly out of financial necessity. He also worked the pro wrestling circuit as a bad guy during college, masked to preserve his amateur standing.



Several Detroit Lions, including Alex Karras, portrayed themselves in* Paper Lion *(left), the screen adaptation of George Plimpton's popular book.

"I was good at arousing the crowd," he says.

He still is.

Hollywood Rule Number 2–Image is everything. Brian Bosworth did not have a glorious NFL career. Damaged shoulders limited him to a total of 24 games over three seasons with the Seattle Seahawks. He was, as one writer noted, "the only football player in history to make more deodorant commercials than tackles."

But he was the Boz—Technicolor haircut, several pounds of earrings, a swagger, and an attitude.

And what did it get him? Shortly after his retirement, it got him the lead role in a feature film, *Stone Cold*, with a script tailored to the Boz persona.

It was the culmination of the grand design of Wichard, who saw Boz play in a college game and instantly knew he could make this kid a star.

The athletes's acting skills range from gripping to wooden. Ray Nitschke (61) and Joe Kapp (11) were among the NFL stars who got favorable reviews in* The Longest Yard *(above); quarterback Roman Gabriel seemed to be out of his league in* The Undefeated *(right).

Wichard and Bosworth piled hype upon outrage upon mystique, attempting to create a cross between Elvis and the abominable snowman.

Hollywood bit like a starving carp. Boz turned down bit parts in two Stallone movies, holding out for a starring vehicle. It was a gutsy, Boz-like strategy that paid off.

In *Stone Cold*, Boz is an undercover cop who rides a gnarly Harley, infiltrates a biker gang, and ruins their day. Bosworth plays a tough guy but he was scared shirtless.

"I was losing my lunch big-time just thinking about being responsible for carrying the movie," Boz says. "I'd be sitting in my trailer, dreading the knock of the PA [production assistant]. Cold sweats. 'Come on, camera, please break.'"

The camera didn't break and neither did the Boz. He pulled off, most critics agreed, a credible performance in a financially successful, low-budget, movie.

And now the Boz and the Gary have another outrageous plan—saying nix to more flex flicks. Bosworth is determined to do what Arnold Schwarzenegger did: move toward kinder and gentler roles. Boz has even dropped about 30 pounds, partly because of six shoulder operations since he left the NFL.

"All people knew was this foaming maniac of a linebacker," Bosworth says. "I can't always stay twenty years old, stay the stupid kid with the stupid haircut. I had a lot of fun, but mentally I need and want much, much more."

Hollywood Rule Number 3—Don't be a fool, go to acting school. Acting is like kicking field goals or throwing knuckle balls. Deep down, every man believes that given the tiniest bit of coaching and a fair shot, he could do it in the big leagues.

But real acting requires—stop the presses—actual talent and training.

"I'll never forget my first reading," says Tony Dorsett, who came to Hollywood untutored. "It was in Los Angeles at one of the big studios. I walked into this room. There was a semicircular couch with eight people on it, all strangers to me, and a chair in front of the couch. The chair was for me.

"They handed me a script to read. They were sitting there, staring. I said, 'Are we gonna set the scene?' They said 'No, just read.' God-A'mighty, talk about sweat! I told 'em afterwards, 'I've been in big games, but I had more anxiety doing this than playing in the Super Bowl.' It scared the hell out of me."

Dorsett didn't get the part. Since then, however, he has landed several TV and movie roles, including a part in an upcoming Vietnam War movie.

Do you get to speak, Tony?

"Speak and yell and scream," Dorsett says.

Almost without exception, the football players who develop real film and TV careers pay their dues in acting workshops and lessons.

Dryer is one overnight success who was years in the making. He found Hollywood fame as "Hunter," the hard-nosed police detective who stalked TV screens from 1984 to 1991.

"I was always attracted to acting," Dryer says, "always fascinated by the big heads up on the screen, the impact of those big pictures."

So he studied dramatics and speech at San Diego State. He continued to study acting while playing 13 seasons for the Giants and Rams, and he saved enough money to carry him through the starving-actor phase of life after football.

"I was the good little squirrel that put his acorns away," Dryer says. "Very quietly, over the last twenty years, I worked diligently in the offseason and nights.

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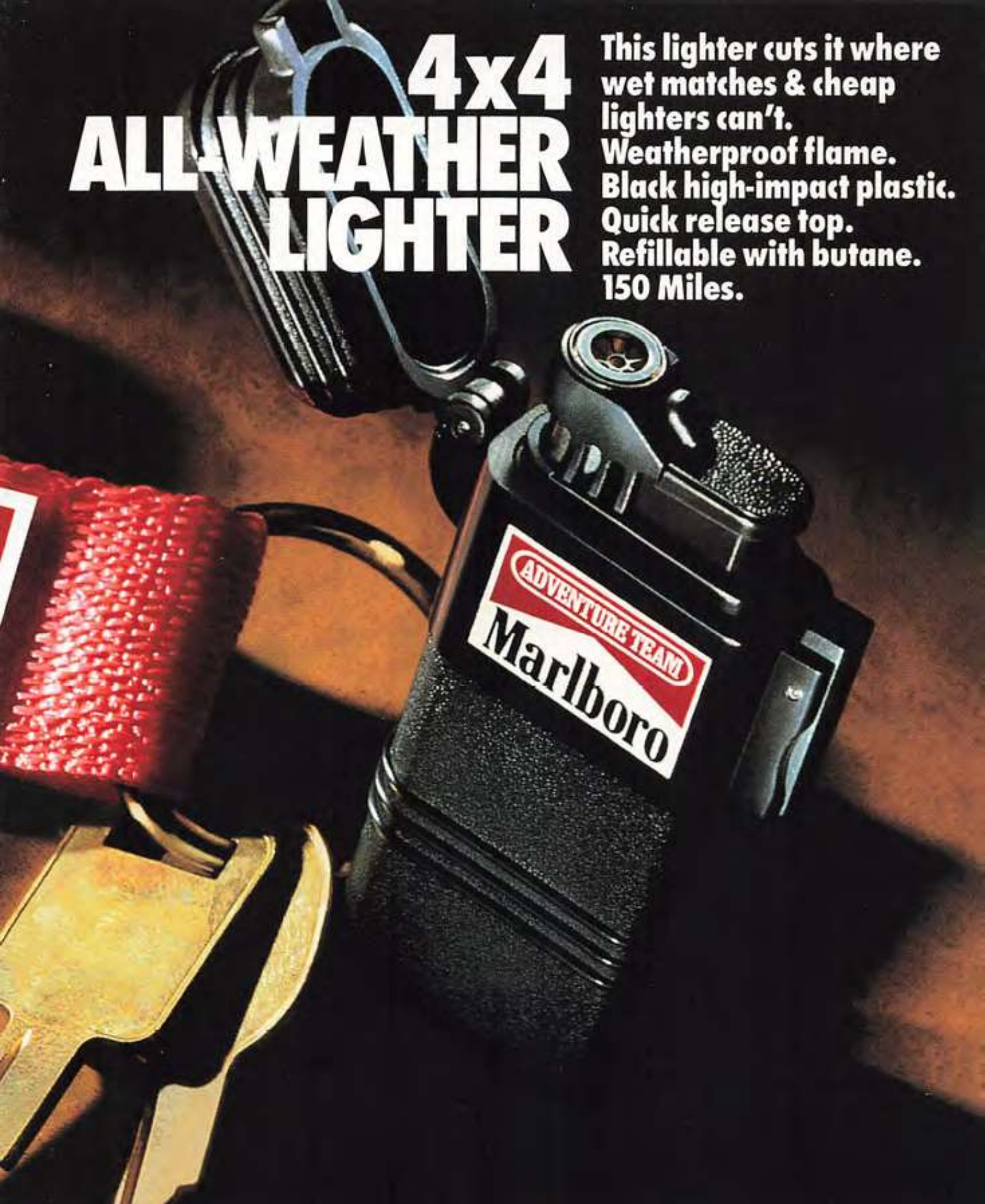
Out here is no place for anything wimpy. Carabiner keyring is black anodized aluminum & steel. Snap clasp holds tight around belt loops. Webbed nylon strip with ring for keys. 55 Miles.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LIGHTER
This lighter cuts it where wet matches & cheap lighters can't.
Weatherproof flame.
Black high-impact plastic.
Quick release top.
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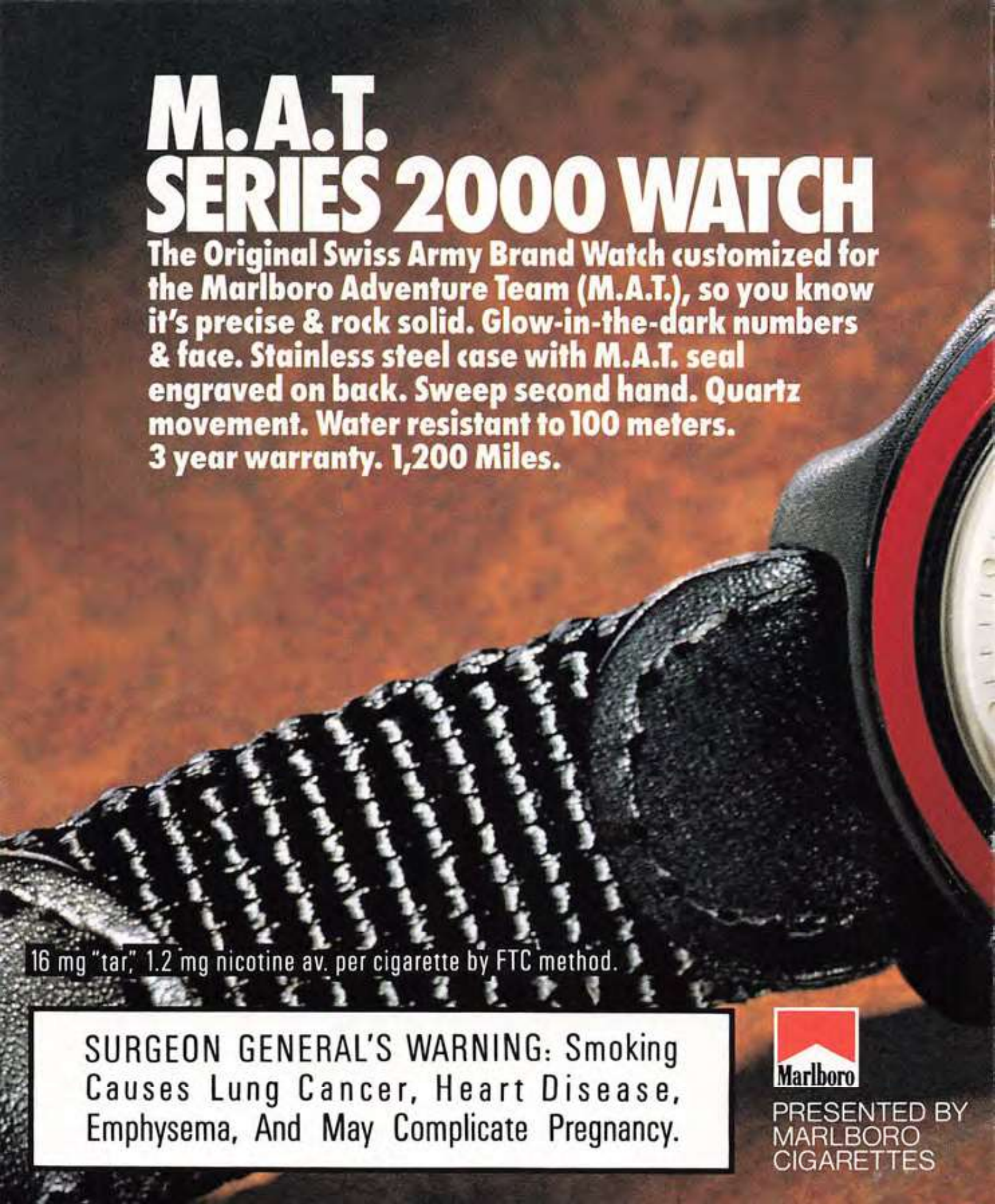
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The Original Swiss Army Brand Watch customized for the Marlboro Adventure Team (M.A.T.), so you know it's precise & rock solid. Glow-in-the-dark numbers & face. Stainless steel case with M.A.T. seal engraved on back. Sweep second hand. Quartz movement. Water resistant to 100 meters. 3 year warranty. 1,200 Miles.
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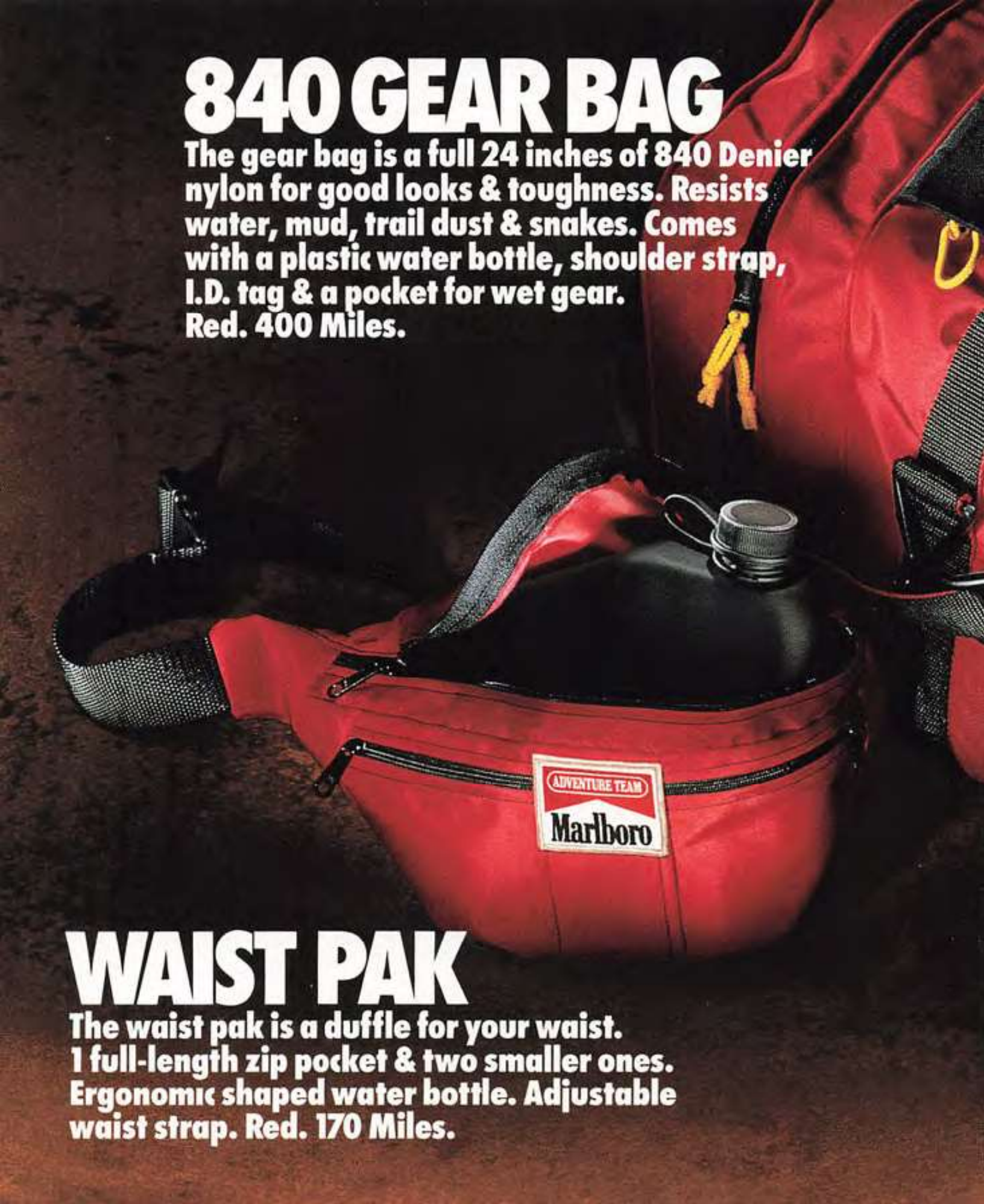

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The gear bag is a full 24 inches of 840 Denier nylon for good looks & toughness. Resists water, mud, trail dust & snakes. Comes with a plastic water bottle, shoulder strap, I.D. tag & a pocket for wet gear. Red. 400 Miles.

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The waist pak is a duffle for your waist. 1 full-length zip pocket & two smaller ones. Ergonomic shaped water bottle. Adjustable waist strap. Red. 170 Miles.

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This is the coolest sleeping bag around & will keep you warm even if the temperature drops to 0°. 100% DuPont Certified Quallofil℠ Fiber is the reason. Sculpted hood with drawtight strings. Anti-snag quick release zippers. Water-resistant nylon shell. Comes with its own stuffsack. Red. 1,350 Miles.

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3. Send your completed order form along with your Adventure Team Miles plus a check or money order for shipping and handling (payable to Marlboro Adventure Team) to: **Marlboro Adventure Team P.O. Box 7117 Lafayette, Indiana 47903-7117. Do not send cash. Postage may vary. Be sure to check with the Post Office so you have the proper postage on your order envelope.**
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GEAR ITEM	ITEM#	QTY	X MILES=	TOTAL MILES
DIRT JAK L	01		900	
DIRT JAK XL	02		900	
CARABINER KEYRING	03		55	
4x4 ALL-WEATHER LIGHTER	04		150	
SERIES 2000 WATCH	05		1,200	
WAIST PAK	06		170	
840 GEAR BAG	07		400	
0° BAG	08		1,350	
RAIN GEAR L	09		500	
RAIN GEAR XL	10		500	

GEAR ITEM	ITEM#	QTY	X MILES=	TOTAL MILES
RIVER SHORTS M	11		200	
RIVER SHORTS L	12		200	
RIVER SHORTS XL	13		200	
TEAM PULLOVER L	14		550	
TEAM PULLOVER XL	15		550	
RED PACK	16		1,000	
TEAM T-SHIRT 1. DIRT BIKE	17		120	
TEAM T-SHIRT 2. RAFTING	18		120	
TEAM T-SHIRT 3. 4x4	19		120	
TEAM CAP	20		85	

Limit: No more than five of any one item; maximum of twenty items per person.

TOTAL MILES	
SHIPPING & HANDLING (see chart)	$

SHIPPING & HANDLING CHART					
# Miles Submitted	1-100	101-250	251-500	501-850	851+
Shipping & Handling Required	$1.00	$2.00	$3.00	$4.00	$5.00

SIZE CHART **CHEST:** M 38-41 L 42-45 XL 46-49 **WAIST:** M 30-33 L 34-37 XL 38-41
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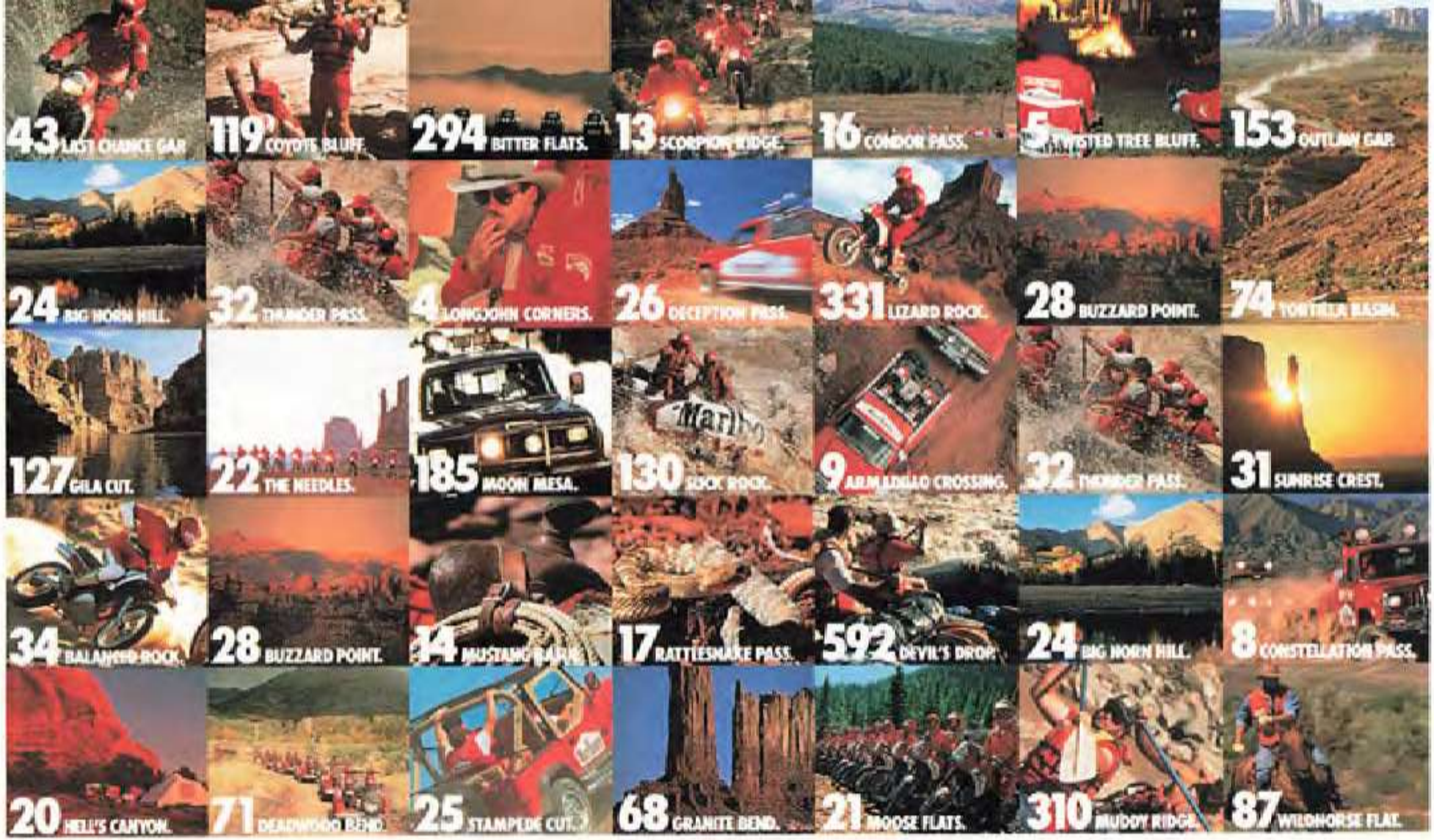
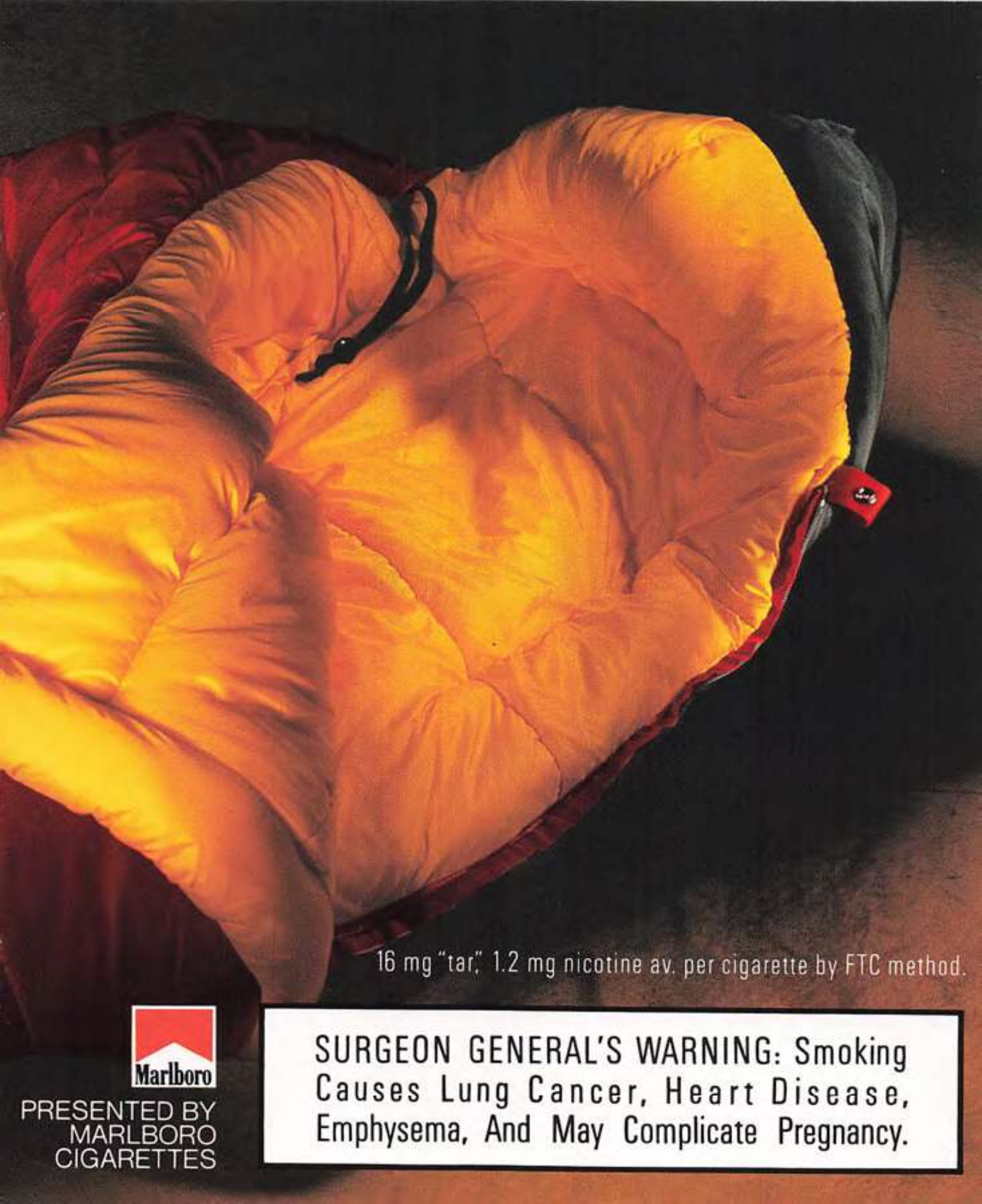


TRACK THE TEAM POSTER.

Here's where the Adventure Team plays. Outlaw Gap. Lizard Rock. Armadillo Pass. It's the American West where you find adventure at every turn. If you're tracking the Team, use these pictures to match your Adventure Team Mile Cards.

Location names are fictional.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RIVER SHORTS

If you're rafting down Satan's Gut, you better come prepared. The river shorts are quickdry nylon with a liner brief. VELCRO* close side & rear pockets have drain holes. Elastic waist with web belt. Black with red belt. M, L, XL. 200 Miles.

*VELCRO is a registered trademark for fasteners of the Velcro companies.

RAIN GEAR
This rain gear is water-proof, of course. Jacket has front zipper opening with a built-in hood. 3 zip pockets. Pants have elastic waist & cuffs. 2 side pockets & 1 in back. Stuffsack included. Red. L, XL. 500 Miles.
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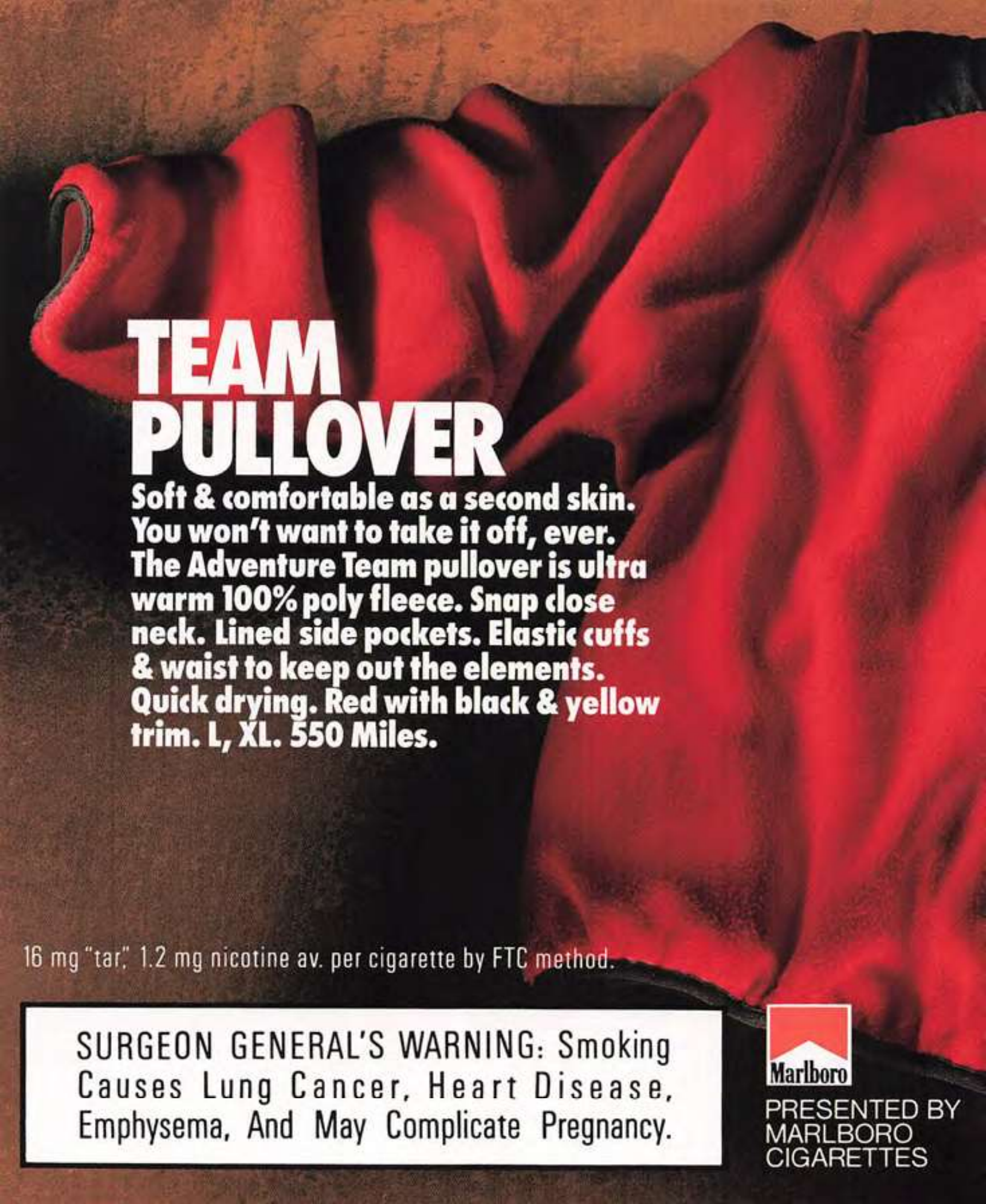
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PULLOVER
Soft & comfortable as a second skin. You won't want to take it off, ever. The Adventure Team pullover is ultra warm 100% poly fleece. Snap close neck. Lined side pockets. Elastic cuffs & waist to keep out the elements. Quick drying. Red with black & yellow trim. L, XL. 550 Miles.
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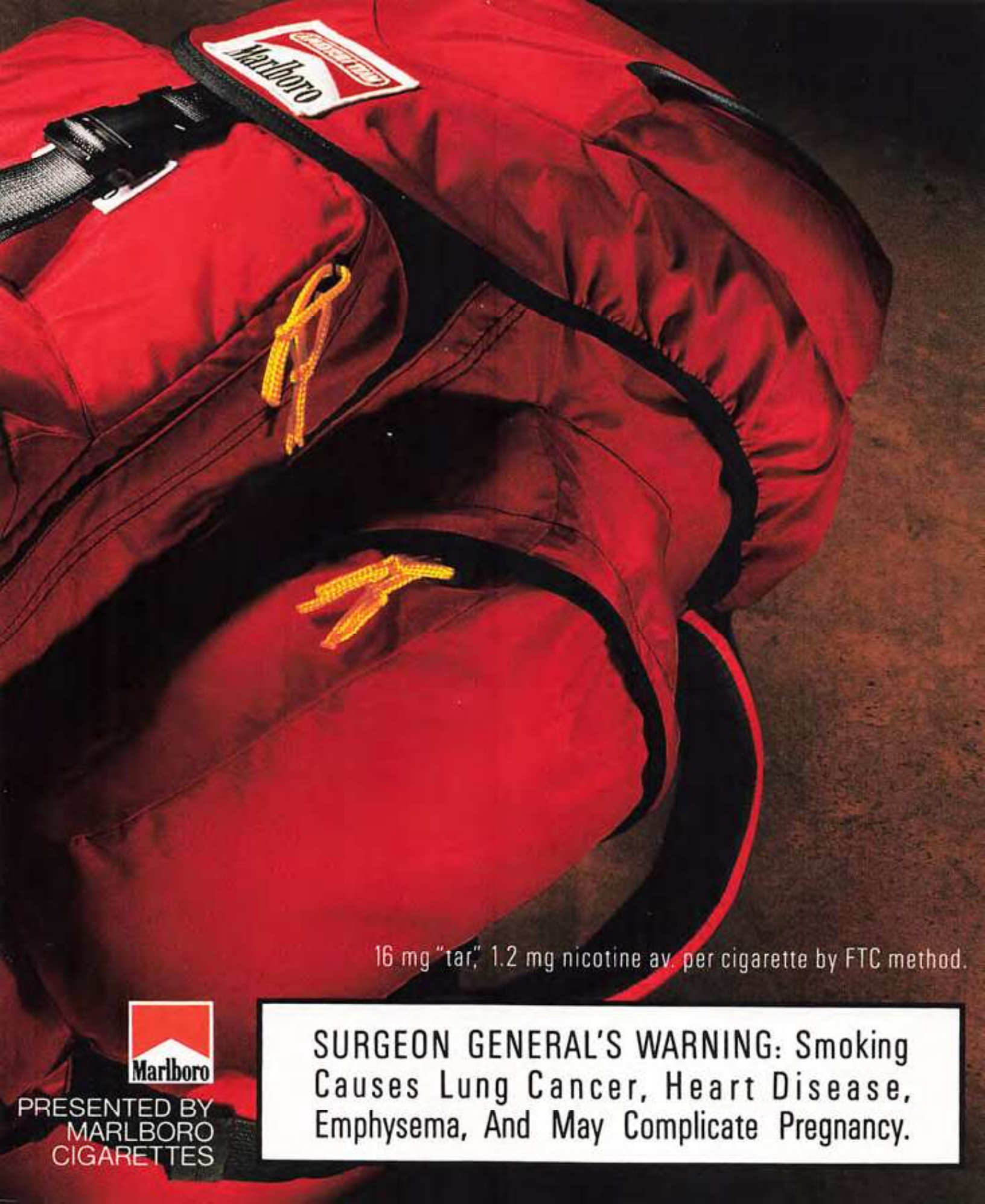
Big enough to carry everything on a long trek. Plus a detachable pack for day trips. Water-resistant nylon, with padded & adjustable straps at the shoulder & waist. 2 long side pockets, 2 top pockets–1 inside, 1 out. Internal frame can be contoured to fit you. Red. 1,000 Miles.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TEAM T-SHIRTS

These T-shirts are pure adrenaline. Each is screened with a different Adventure Team attitude. 1. Dirt Bike; 2. Rafting; 3. 4x4. Cigarette pocket on front. 100% hefty cotton. Short sleeve. XL. 120 Miles each.

TEAM CAP

Don't go a mile without the Official Team Cap. Fast dry nylon with an x-long bill. Sewn in sweat band. Adjustable. Red. 85 Miles.

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Tear open here.
GET THE GEAR YOU CAN CRANK, SOAK, THRASH AND CHILL.
Tear open here.

Fred Dryer took years of acting lessons, then logged 15- to 18-hour days during the 1984-1991 television run of "Hunter."

No one made me anything. There wasn't someone saying, 'Gee, you play for the Rams, you oughtta have a TV show.' I'm good at knowing how to get what I want, within the framework of my morality, standards, and hard work.

"I went to acting school for five years, went on readings, steeped myself in the new environment, taught myself a new language. I sat in lobbies in Hollywood, outside casting directors' offices. The other actors waiting would say, 'What are you doing here?' I'd say, 'Trying to get a job, just like you.'

"You have to have a vision of what you want to do, and you have to work toward it."

Dryer didn't ease off when he landed his own series. For the eight-year run of "Hunter" he worked 15- to 18-hour days.

And acting wasn't enough.

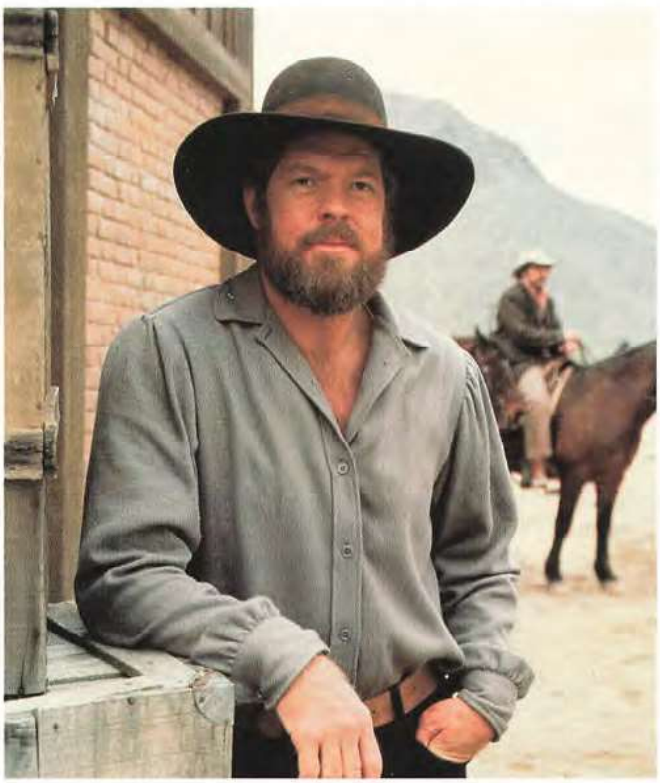
"I want to work the control knobs," Dryer says. "I produced 'Hunter' for the last two years. They gave me sixty million dollars. I gave them forty-four shows and I gave them change."

Dryer has been signed to produce various TV projects, including movies, and also plans to do feature films. He's as deep into the Hollywood process as any football player ever has been.

"It's in me...it's who I am," Dryer says. "The fact that I was a football player is merely there to confound the onlookers."

Karras, among the most successful of all football players-cum-actors, has played every part from the savage Mongo in **Blazing Saddles** *to the levelheaded adoptive father on TV's "Webster" (above)*

Merlin Olsen's movie career began with bird calls and peaked with a major role in "Little House on the Prairie" (below).



Hollywood Rule Number 4—Play for an NFL team in Hollywood, or as close to it as you can get.

True story:

Anthony Davis, a USC alumnus, was sitting in the stands at a Trojans game in the Los Angeles Coliseum when he was approached by a stranger.

Says Davis: "He walked up to me and said, 'You have a good military look, A.D. How would you like a role in a movie? I said, 'What do I have to do?' He said, 'Get a haircut and be back here at seven tomorrow morning.'"

That was *Two-Minute Warning*.

Another true Anthony Davis story:

"A year later I was walking down Sunset Boulevard and a guy walks up to me, says, 'Hey, A.D.! I wanna talk to you.' I thought he was going to try to sell me something. He said, 'You did *Two-Minute Warning*. How would you like to do another movie?'"

Davis was handed the role of a prison guard in a Bill Murray film, *Coming Attraction*, and it led to other acting work. Most

Anthony Davis was hand-picked for* Two-Minute Warning, *but most of his dialogue was sacrificed in the editing room.

recently Davis worked with Dan (Grizzly Adams) Haggerty in a Civil War movie and a pirate movie titled *Calico Jack* (due out later this year). He also will have a running part on Haggerty's new TV series, "The Reunion."

When Hollywood goes looking for a football player, it doesn't like to look far. Davis, Olsen, Simpson, Elroy (Crazylegs) Hirsch, Grier, Tim Rossovich, Alzado, Bernie Casey, Bob Waterfield—they all played college or pro ball in Los Angeles.

Mike Henry finished his six-year NFL career in 1964 as a linebacker for the Rams, then played the lead role in three Tarzan movies.

Nearly the entire 1948 Rams squad was in *Easy Living*, with Victor Mature and Lucille Ball. Fred Dryer stayed with the Rams late in his career just to be near Hollywood.

Merlin Olsen had no plans for an acting career until he and Rams teammate Roman Gabriel went to a Hollywood party during the 1969 season.

"Someone introduced me to Andy McLaglen," Olsen says. "He was directing a film and he said, 'I need someone to make John Wayne look small. Ever done any acting?'

"I asked him two questions: Is it fun? And, does it pay pretty well?"

McLaglen answered yes to both, and Olsen and Gabriel soon were off to Durango, Mexico, with John Wayne, Rock Hudson, and Ben Johnson to film *The Undefeated*.

"I signed the contract without reading the script," Olsen says. "Then I got the script and I had no lines. I was devastated. A twelve-week contract, $2,500 a week—almost as much as I was making in football—and no lines. I went to the director and said, 'Why are you paying me all this money for no lines?'"

So they gave Merlin some lines. Even let him write a couple scenes.

"I was scared to death, but my football training helped me turn anxiety into positive energy," Olsen says. "And I did have a good attitude; I wanted to learn. It's the football mentality—the more things you can do, the more valuable you are, so I made myself valuable. I helped put up scaffolding because I had been a hod carrier and knew how to build scaffolding.

"The first day filming, they needed bird calls. I said, 'I could do that!' You grow up in the mountains of Utah, you learn how to talk to birds. So my first day I was doing bird calls."

A few years and several movie and TV bit parts later, Olsen retired from football and signed with NBC as a football analyst and actor. But the network had no acting plans for him—not until Michael Landon cast Merlin as Marcus Garvey in "Little House on the Prairie."

Landon thought he saw something no one else had seen in Olsen—real acting talent.

"Had I not been able to handle the responsibilities," Olsen says, "Marcus Garvey would have had a tragic wagon accident."

Marcus lived for four seasons, until Landon gave Olsen his own series, "Father Murphy" (1981-84), in which the former member of the Fearsome Foursome played a golden-hearted fake frontier priest.

"It's funny," Olsen says, remembering back to the Hollywood party where it all started. "I never go to those things, but a half-dozen of us were invited and we were just curious."

Hollywood Rule Number 5—Bring a lunch.

"If guys knew how tough this business is, they wouldn't even try," says Marinaro, who was a regular on "Hill Street Blues" for several seasons, and now appears on the series "Sisters" and also has been a leading man in several TV movies. "No one in this town is ever going to give you anything worthwhile that you don't deserve."

This town gave Ray Nitschke a kick in the pants, so to speak. The Hall of Fame linebacker remembers two months of agony, filming football scenes for *The Longest Yard* inside a Georgia state prison.

"We had some tough semipro players from Georgia, and the inmates were pretty good, too, and everybody wanted to test me," Nitschke says. "The director wanted the action as real as possible so he didn't tell us what the offense was running. It was the toughest game I ever played in, tougher than the Super Bowls."

Especially Nitschke's exit scene, in which he is knocked out of the game by a very low pass thrown by Burt Reynolds. The Monkees never played that dirty.

Some, of course, find the work quite pleasant—the perfect job for a retired player.

"It's not hard for a football player to catch on," says Bubba Smith, who came to Hollywood for beer commercials and stayed to star in all six *Police Academy* films. "You're dealing with a lot of plays and variations off those plays [in football]. If they change something, you have to adjust in a tenth of a second. It's the same mental discipline as acting.

"It can never replace the adrenaline of playing football, but it's the closest thing."

Right, Anthony Davis?

"Yo." ☆

DAN MARINO

on

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LET'S FACE IT. I'M KNOWN FOR PASSING AND HANDING-OFF. BUT DOES THAT MAKE ME AN INELIGIBLE RECEIVER? I CERTAINLY HOPE NOT! BECAUSE WITH ISOTONER GLOVES, SLIPPERS AND SOCKS, I'M JUST AS HAPPY TO RECEIVE AS I AM TO GIVE.

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SPOTLIGHT

ANDY ROONEY'S TOP 40

BY ANDY ROONEY

You might say I am the quintessential football fan. My father took me to New York Giants games when I was 8. Mel Hein and Ken Strong were playing then. I've watched all the great ones who've played since then.

In the late 1940s and 1950s, I had a newspaper friend who got me a seat in the photographers' box every week. In 1957, I bought my own ticket and started sitting on the goal line in the second row of the upper stands. A game looks strange to me from the 50-yard line now.

You notice I say "my ticket." I don't have two tickets. I don't want two tickets. If you like football, it's best to go to the game alone. All I take are binoculars, a small radio, and a thermos of chicken soup on a cold day.

I have a fan's relationship with the familiar faces around me, many of whom have had their tickets as long as I have. Charley sits on the aisle three seats behind me and knows everything. There's a Charley in every section.

We all trade comments, but at the game I am unencumbered by friends or family. I am alone with my thoughts and the familiar strangers around me.

Following are 40 thoughts that have come to me over the years—presented in no special order:

(1) It would be difficult to explain to someone who is not familiar with the game why a team can score one, two, three, or six points, and why one point can never be the first point scored.

(2) To enjoy a game, it's best to find a reason to dislike one of the teams. The reason can be as slight as not liking the color of their jerseys but you must find something. Having had a bad hotel room in the city the other team represents is a valid reason.

(3) Rule changes haven't been all good through the years. The ball used to be brought in only a short distance from the sideline after it went out of bounds. I think it was 10 yards but Charley says it was 15. The center lined up with just two men on his left or right and teams had to adapt to running lopsided plays. It not only made the play interesting, but the middle part of a natural grass field didn't get torn up so badly by being played on for the whole game because teams used the whole width of the field.

"To enjoy a game, it's best to find a reason to dislike one of the teams. The reason can be as slight as not liking the color of their jerseys, but you must find something."

(4) The people who don't go to games and have a superior way of saying, "I like to *play* games, not *watch* them," don't play games any more than the people who watch them.

(5) Dropkicks still are legal but no one has drop-kicked a ball for as long as I've been going to games. Strange because it only takes one man, no holder. Charley says Ray (Scooter) McLean scored three points with a dropkick for the Bears against the Giants in 1941. I wasn't there.

(6) In a baseball game, when the pitcher throws one too high, the catcher always pulls it down into the strike zone as if it had been thrown there. In a football game, when a runner is brought down, he always extends his arms and puts the ball down a yard farther than he really got with it. I never have seen either of these tricks fool either a baseball umpire or a football referee.

(7) Football is not a gentle game, but by percentage of the number of people who do it, more people are seriously hurt falling off ladders.

(8) Owners could save money if they returned to the rules that forced players to play both offense and defense. All owners would have to do is go back to the limited substitution rules. They'd have a few more than half as many players to pay. Also, it was always interesting to see how the quarterback played on defense. He usually was pretty good.

(9) Football and rugby are the only games played with a ball that isn't round. It adds a dimension that round-ball games don't have. A lopsided ball might make baseball more interesting.

(10) Players drink more soft drinks than water. Water boys who ran out on the field with pails of dirty water for players to drink and splash on themselves are a thing of the past.

(11) John Madden does the best commentary on television—and the worst commercials.

(12) Charley says the average lineman wears 18 pounds of uniform. I don't think that includes tape.

(13) A stadium hot dog today costs more than a ticket did in 1950. People aren't eating as many hot dogs.

(14) The halftime shows are not designed to be so entertaining as to keep fans from going out back to buy from the concession stands.

(15) Funny they don't sell rule books. The average fan has to learn the rules by word of mouth. Usually Charley's mouth.

(16) Wide receivers would make the best basketball players. There's no other game most nose tackles could play.

(17) The crowd may pay some attention to cheerleaders, but I don't think players are cheered much by them.

(18) There hasn't been a raccoon coat anywhere near me at a game in 20 years. I suppose the Harvard-Yale game still has a few.

(19) It's hard for spectators to believe, but I played enough to know that linemen enjoy playing in the rain on a muddy field.

(20) The difference between watching a game on television and watching it from a seat in the stadium is that at home you watch what the television director decides to show you. At the game, you watch what you want to see. Watching at home is better than not seeing the game at all, but it is not as good as being there.

(21) The players have the worst view of the game. They see a very small part of it, even though they see that part close up.

(22) As a fan, I always think the Giants are going to win the Super Bowl. It is very hard for me to admit they're not, even when I *know* they're not.

(23) People who are not serious football fans—I am thinking now of wives—may laugh at us fans, but faith in a team is worth having for its own sake, whether our team wins or not. It feels good. What do people who are not football fans have so good in their lives as a football fan's faith that his team will win? Sixteen times a year I am lifted out of the routine of my own life into the exalted realm of great expectations. No number of defeats diminishes the expectation.

(24) Professional football players are smarter than the professional athletes who play baseball, basketball, or hockey, although I'm pretty sure baseball, basketball, and hockey players don't think that's so.

(25) The center usually is the smartest lineman on the team. I wouldn't say so in front of any defensive linemen, but the linemen playing offense usually are smarter than those playing defense.

(26) It would be easier on his Achilles tendon if Lawrence Taylor came back as a tight end in 1993. He might be great there, too.

(27) The Denver Broncos play at home in Mile High Stadium, which ought to be pressurized like the cabin of an airplane so that visiting teams wouldn't have so much trouble adjusting to the lack of oxygen at Denver's mile-high altitude.

(28) It's heart warming to see a player who has just tried to destroy a ball carrier with a vicious tackle, hold out his hand to help him up off the ground when the play is over. I'm not sure the ball carrier's heart is warmed as much as mine at that point.

(29) The big new thing in pro football in the next few years may be grass.

(30) Charley says a helmet costs $175.

(31) It's always been popular to say that on any given day, any team in the NFL could beat any other team, but it isn't true. Most years the worst teams can never beat the best teams.

(32) No President has ever kicked off the first ball to start the NFL season and it seems like a good thing.

(33) The crowd at each NFL home game has its own personality. Each crowd is different, and it isn't just the city that makes the crowd what it is because nowhere is the character of the crowd more different than at New York Giants and New York Jets games. They play in the same stadium, too.

(34) Bengals quarterback Boomer Esiason has the best name of any current football player. The Green Bay Packers have the best team nickname.

(35) Los Angeles is a good city for the Super Bowl although there are no bad places for it because the game takes over and infuses cities with a flavor all its own.

(36) Fans like it best when they can identify a player with one team for his whole career.

(37) It's easier for kids to play a pickup game of soccer in a vacant lot Saturday morning than it is for them to play football.

(38) There have been some good receivers who were slow.

(39) For most of the NFL's history, the names of the positions didn't change. On offense, there were quarterbacks, fullbacks, halfbacks, centers, guards, tackles, and ends. On defense, there were defensive backs, linebackers, centers, guards, tackles, and ends. There has been a proliferation of position names in recent years. Calling the defensive tackle in a 3-4 setup a nose tackle does not seem to have materially improved the game.

(40) Charley thinks football is the best game to play or watch ever invented. So do I. ☆

Illustration by Gary Kelley

UNBEATEN, TIED, FORGETTABLE

Reflections on a 17-0 Season by the Men of the 1972 Dolphins

BY RAY DIDINGER

Twenty years later, they still stand alone.

The few. The proud. The perfect.

We are referring, of course, to the 1972 Miami Dolphins, the only team in National Football League history to survive an entire season unbeaten and untied. The Dolphins were an amazing success story, a franchise in only its seventh season, playing without number-one quarterback Bob Griese most of the year, finding a way to win every game, including Super Bowl VII.

17-0. A season for the ages.

"It is just now sinking in, what a monumental achievement that was," says Norm Evans, an offensive tackle with the Dolphins from 1966 through 1975. "I see how much trouble teams have winning two or three [games] in a row. To think we went through an entire season and won them all is really remarkable."

It was not a team of superstars. Indeed, the defense was called the No-Name Defense because it relied on players such as linebacker Doug Swift, a free agent from Amherst; end Vern Den Herder, a ninth-round draft pick from Central College of Iowa, and safety Jake Scott, a balding refugee from the Canadian Football League. The offense was solid, but not much for fireworks. The Dolphins ran the football more than any team in the league. In 1972, they became the first NFL team to have two runners—fullback Larry Csonka and halfback Mercury Morris—reach the 1,000-yard mark in the same season.

The blueprint drawn up by Shula was simple and straightforward. All the pieces fit together just so. "It was one of those rare cases," Csonka said, "where the whole really was greater than the sum of its parts."

Miami concluded its landmark season with a 14-7 victory over the Washington Redskins in Super Bowl VII.

Now, two decades later, the Super Bowl again lands in Los Angeles, the city that hosted that final piece of the Dolphins' monument. It was from the L.A. Coliseum field that head coach Don Shula was carried on the shoulders of his undefeated warriors.

Earlier this season, most of the veterans gathered in Miami for a 20-year reunion and reminisced over a long November weekend. The 1972 season remains vivid in their memories.

Here is how that unprecedented chapter of pro football history unfolded, as told by the men who lived it.

"That season actually started the previous January, at Super Bowl VI," says Warfield, the graceful receiver who led the Dolphins with 29 catches for 606 yards in 1972. "We were a young team that went up against a seasoned Dallas team and got humiliated [losing 24-3].

"I woke up at six the day of the game," Buoniconti says. "I went to the hotel coffee shop and Griese was there. He said, 'Nick, there is no way they can beat us.'"

"We were like Cinderella at the ball that year: We were just happy to be there. We didn't have the right mental attitude to win. It was a very quiet locker room after the game. Don [Shula] called us together and said, 'We all know what we have to do. We have to come back to this game next year and win it.'

"That became the focus of our football team. When we reported to camp that summer, Don's opening speech picked up on the same theme: 'We have to go back to the Super Bowl and prove that we're a better team than we showed against Dallas.'"

"We never celebrated after a game that season," says Nick Buoniconti, the 5-11, 215-pound middle linebacker who led the No-Name Defense. "If you came into our locker room, you'd never know that we won. That was because those [regular season] games were just steps on the ladder. Our real goal was the Super Bowl.

"That is why we were able to go unbeaten because we didn't concentrate on that. In fact, we used to kid around and say, 'Which game are we gonna lose? Nobody goes undefeated.' We were

Illustrations: F. Bruce Dean

looking at the bigger picture and that was the Super Bowl."

"The team was a unique bunch of guys. It probably brought more collective intellect to the field than any team before or since," says Jim Mandich, a tight end with the Dolphins from 1970-77, now a color analyst on the team's radio network.

"It was not a real close team in terms of hanging out together. There were a lot of different personalities: serious guys, party guys, loners, goody-goodies. But on the field, in the locker room, the chemistry was great. Everyone pulled together for the common goal."

"We saw the first four games as the key to our season," says Larry Little, a four-time Pro Bowl selection at guard. "Three were on the road against very good teams [Kansas City, Minnesota, New York Jets]. We were coming in as defending AFC champs. It was going to be tough, we knew that.

"I don't think many of us were convinced Earl could do the job," Mandich says. "He was thirty-eight years old... and he couldn't throw the ball over forty yards. I saw him come wobbling onto the field and I thought, 'There's no way we can win with this old fossil.'"

"Kansas City was guaranteed to be a war. We knocked them out of the playoffs the previous year, in double overtime. Now we had to open the season against them, and they were playing their first game in the new [Arrowhead] stadium. They had all the psychological factors going their way.

"I'll never forget the heat. It was something like 120 degrees on the artifical turf. I was dying. But when the third quarter ended, I sprinted to the other end of the field. So did the rest of our offense. The Chiefs looked at us like we were crazy. It was a psych job, but it worked."

Miami 20, Kansas City 10.

"The Minnesota game is the game that made us," says Bob Kuechenberg, the guard who signed as a free agent in 1970 and went on to play 14 seasons in Miami. "We were down eight points [14-6] with five minutes to go on the road. We hadn't been able to move the ball all day. Things looked bleak.

"We had a drive stall in Minnesota territory and Don sent in Garo [Yepremian] to kick a fifty-one-yard field goal. Garo never had kicked one longer than forty-eight yards in his life, but he made this one. Right then, we got the feeling, 'Hey, we can win this thing.'"

"The defense held and we got the ball back," Griese says. "We had pretty much gone through our offense. We went three [plays] and out more in that game than we did all year. But we stuck with our plan of attack. You can't get frustrated. You have to believe in what you're doing.

"The Vikings were keying on Csonka and [wide receiver Paul] Warfield, so we went the other way. We ran Mercury around the end [14 yards] and threw a couple passes to Howard Twilley. We took the ball down to the three-yard line."

"I expected us to run it in," Mandich says. "We had Csonka—265 pounds, a beast, a total freak. Who else would get the ball in that situation? But Greaseball [Griese] called One-Nineteen Split Delay. That was a fake to Csonka and pass to me. I thought, 'Huh?'

"The Vikings were bunched at the line, bracing for Csonka. I faked a block on [defensive end] Jim Marshall, who knocked the hell out of me. I was wide open in the end zone, but I was literally seeing tweety-birds and flashbulbs from the shot I took.

"I saw the ball coming towards me and all I could think was, 'Don't screw this up. Catch the damn thing.' I remember looking at the clock [after the touchdown]. There was 1:28 left. Eighty-eight seconds, and I was number eighty-eight.

"It was that kind of season. Everything fell into place."

Miami 16, Minnesota 14.

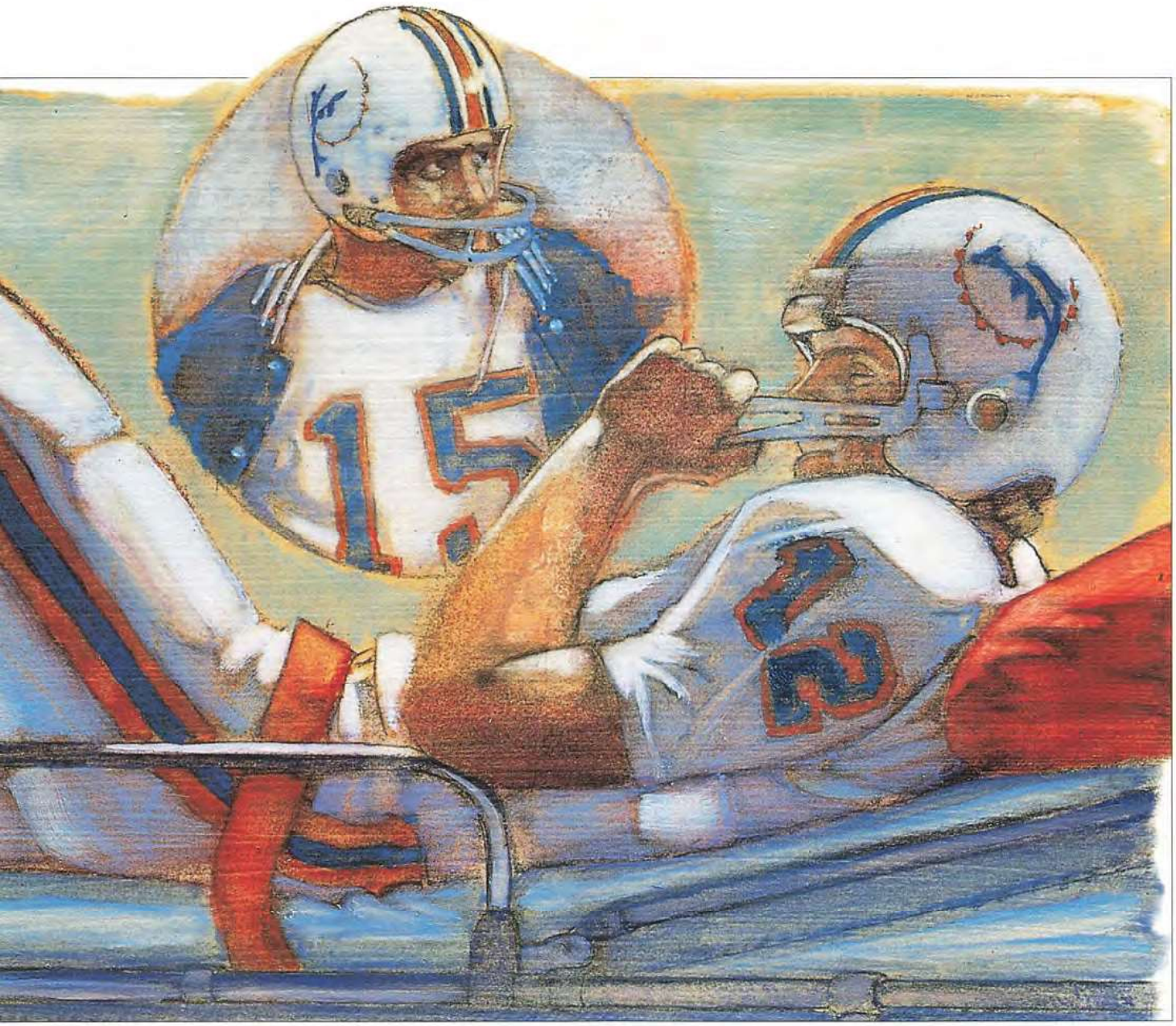
The Dolphins defeated the Jets in New York 27-17 to extend their record to 4-0. They were the only unbeaten team left in the NFL as they returned to the Orange Bowl to meet San Diego.

It looked like the first breather on the Dolphins' schedule. It turned out to be the worst kind of nightmare.

"I had just thrown a pass to Jim Kiick," Griese says. "My right leg was planted and the traction on the [artificial] turf was actually too good. I got hit and my ankle gave way. I knew immediately it was bad [fractured right fibula, dislocated ankle]. I didn't have to see the stretcher to know I was going out."

"It was a devastating blow for our football team because Bob was our leader," Shula says. "But I was glad we had Earl [Morrall] to step in. He had led us to the Super Bowl in Baltimore when John Unitas was hurt in sixty-eight. He was a veteran who was familiar with the offense.

"We were lucky to have him. The Colts had let him go because they didn't want to carry two high-salaried quarterbacks. I told [owner] Joe Robbie we should pick him up as an insurance policy. Joe never flinched when



he heard what Earl was making. He said, 'If he can help us, sign him.'"

"I don't think many of us were convinced Earl could do the job," Mandich says. "He was thirty-eight years old with this flattop haircut, and he couldn't throw the ball over forty yards. I saw him come wobbling onto the field and I thought, 'There's no way we can win with this old fossil.'"

"Earl talked to the football," Norm Evans says. "He'd let it go and say, 'Get up, get up.' We'd be blocking and hear that behind us. It was kind of unnerving."

"I had been coming off the bench for a long time," Morrall says. "Off and on for sixteen years. Detroit. Pittsburgh. New York [Giants]. Baltimore. You get used to it, like a relief pitcher in baseball.

"I didn't say anything special when I went into the huddle that day. I just said, 'Okay, let's keep it going.' I wasn't looking to make a big play; I just wanted to keep the continuity going. We went down and kicked a field goal. That seemed to settle everyone down.

"I felt very comfortable," says Morrall, who completed 8 of 10 passes that day, including 2 for touchdowns. "I knew my role: Run the offense, run the ball. It might not have worked as well if I was a young guy who thought, 'This is my big chance. I'm going to show people what I can do.' I was happy just to fit in."

"I listened to the game on the radio at the hospital," Griese says. "It was an empty feeling. I was looking down at my [dislocated] ankle, which was twisted into a Z shape. At that point, I wasn't even thinking about coming back. All I wanted to do was walk again."

"That was probably the lowest day of my career," Evans says. "It was my man [end Deacon Jones] who looped around and hit Griese. I cried all the way home that night. I kept telling my wife, 'I ruined our season.'"

Miami 24, San Diego 10

With Morrall's steady hand guiding the offense, the Dolphins stayed on course, rolling through Baltimore

(23-0), New England (52-0), and Buffalo twice (24-23, 30-16). They clinched the AFC East title with a 28-24 victory over the Jets on November 19.

Suddenly, Miami was 10-0 and people were talking about the team doing what no other NFL team had done before—that is, play the perfect season.

"I started thinking about it after the sixth game," says Csonka, who led the Dolphins with 1,117 rushing yards. "I didn't talk about it, certainly not with the press, but I thought about it. The way we were executing, I felt it was within our grasp."

"I don't remember any buildup in the press, which worked to our advantage," says Dick Anderson, the all-pro strong safety. "There was some attention late in the season, but nothing like today. That is why it will be hard for any team to duplicate what we did. Once a team gets to 8-0, the [media] pressure will be so enormous it will be almost impossible for the coaches and players to stay focused."

"Shula came around the corner just as Lloyd Mumphord was ready to fling a bucket of water. Lloyd saw Shula and froze in the middle of his windup. Shula tore into us, but we were just letting off steam."

"I didn't have to rein that team in very much," Shula says. "The players were very businesslike. They didn't show a lot of emotion. They prepared well, they practiced well, and they always were ready to play.

"If there was one characteristic of the team that stood out, it was the intelligence of the players. That was the smartest group of athletes I've ever been around. I didn't have to preach 'one game at a time.' They knew it."

"Don only worried about us letting down one time," Morrall says. "It was December, we had the division clinched, and we were in New England. The Patriots were awful [2-9], and it was a perfect spot for a letdown.

"The night before the game, we had a water fight in the hotel. I don't know who started it, but there were twenty guys in the hall throwing buckets of water and ice cubes. We all were laughing. It was fraternity-house stuff.

"Shula heard the noise. He came around the corner just as [cornerback] Lloyd Mumphord was ready to fling a bucket of water. Lloyd saw Shula and froze in the middle of his windup. Shula tore into us, but we were just letting off steam. It didn't mean anything."

Miami 37, New England 21.

"Our team was described as unemotional and boring, but we really weren't like that," says Csonka, a free spirit who played Butch Cassidy to Kiick's Sundance Kid on a popular poster that season. "We did a lot of joking among ourselves, but we kept our business face on around the press. We felt a little betrayed the previous year. After we lost the Super Bowl, the headlines were 'The Fish That Couldn't Swim,' things like that. Shula told us to watch what we said after that."

"The team was just solid, very solid," Doug Swift says. "There wasn't one area you could point to as a weakness. We pounded teams to death with our running game. Our defense allowed the fewest points [171] in the league.

"There was a kind of innocence about that team. We were a bunch of young guys who didn't know enough to be scared. We never stopped to think, 'Gee, maybe we shouldn't be winning all these games.' We just went out and played.

"No one talked about money. No one worried about who was getting the credit. People called us the No-Name Defense, and we took it as a compliment. It meant we were playing as a team, not a bunch of individuals, and that was our whole philosophy.

"If there was such a thing as a key to our team, it probably was Csonka. His running made everything else work. It set up the passing game. It allowed the offense to control the ball, which made our job easier [on defense]. He was such a force.

"I remember one game Larry caught a swing pass and took a vicious hit. He came off with his head down, one arm hanging. The doctor was examining him when Shula came over. Shula said, 'He can't be hurt. Csonka, get back in there.' And Larry went back in the game. He seemed indestructible."

"As a blocker, all I had to do was open a crack and Larry did the rest," Larry Little says. "There was real incentive, too, because if I didn't get out of the way, Larry would slam that size-nine helmet into my back and drive me through the hole."

"This might sound brash, but I think we were the best offensive line ever in terms of technique," Evans says. "Monte Clark [line coach] did a great job. He used to say, 'Our keys are two four-letter words: want and work. Want to be the best, and work to be the best.'

"Watching our line was like watching the starting gate at a horse race. You know how all the gates swing open at once and slam shut at once? That was how our line looked. All five [blockers] moved in sync. Bang!—the gate opened and Csonka came galloping through.

"We drilled plays over and over...pulling, sliding, trapping. I see very little technique in offensive line play today. It looks like a bunch of Sumo wrestlers, pushing and shoving."

"We broke the league rushing record that season [gaining 2,960 yards as a team]," Kuechenberg says. "That was a source of pride for the offensive line. We could point to that record and say, 'That's our sweat and blood right there.'"

The Dolphins completed the regular season 14-0. Morrall led the AFC in passing efficiency. Csonka, Morris, and Kiick combined to score 24 touchdowns.

The defense ranked first in the AFC against the run. Coordinator Bill Arnsparger confused opponents by using Bob Matheson as an end and linebacker. This scheme was known as the "53 defense" because Matheson, a trade acquisition from Cleveland, wore number 53.

The Dolphins had a scare in their playoff opener. They trailed the Cleveland Browns in the fourth quar-

ter before rallying to win 20-14. With the offense sputtering, Shula faced a big decision going into the AFC Championship Game against the Steelers at Pittsburgh.

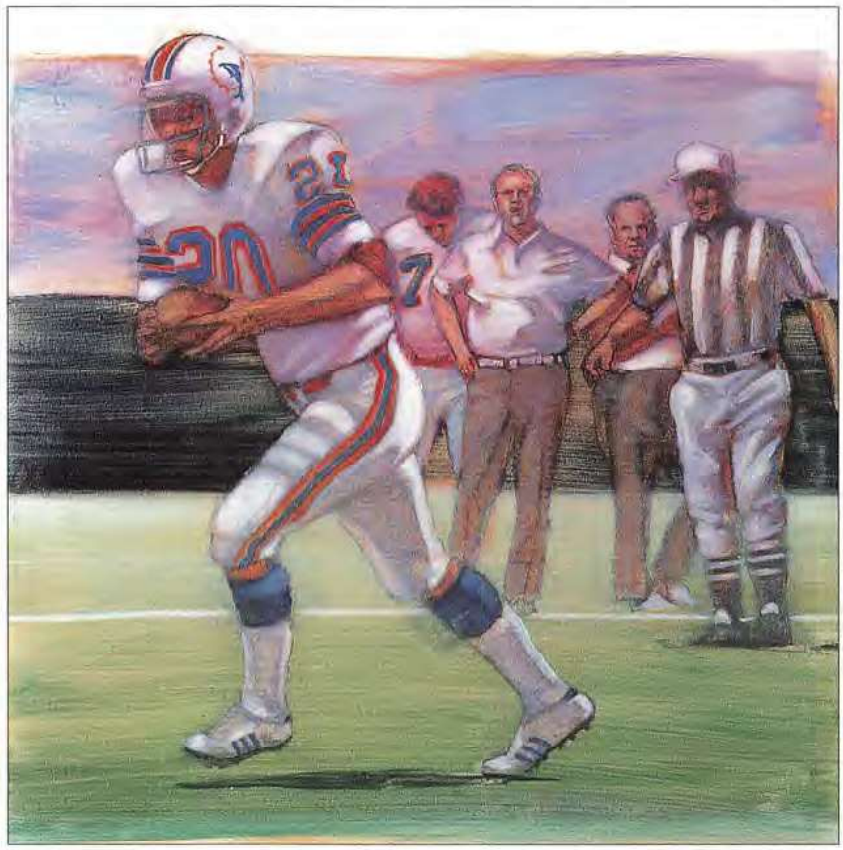
Should he replace Morrall, the quarterback who led the team to 11 consecutive victories, with Griese, who had recovered from his injuries and was back in uniform?

"I wanted to stay with Earl because he had done such a great job," Shula says, "but I was ready to make a change [to Griese] if we couldn't get anything going against Pittsburgh.

"Bob had studied all week. He looked sharp in practice. When we struggled in the first half [a 7-7 standoff], I decided to make the move. It was tough, because I have so much respect for Earl, but I felt it was the thing to do. We needed a spark."

"When I saw Don coming my way [at halftime], I knew," Griese says. "It wasn't anything dramatic. He said something like, 'Do you think you're ready?' I said, 'Yeah, I'm ready.' Then he said, 'Okay, you start the second half.' That was it.

"I expected it. I had practiced very well that week. I was itching to get back. My arm was fresh, my legs were fresh. I didn't feel nervous. I felt the way I always felt, like I had a job to do."



"People tried to make it a controversial decision, but we [the players] didn't feel that way," Mandich says. "We respected the hell out of Earl for the job he did, but a healthy Bob Griese was the best quarterback in the league. Leaving him on the bench would have been like leaving Secretariat in the barn on Derby day. It wouldn't have made sense."

"I was surprised when Don pulled me," Morrall says. "It was a tie game, and I had thrown one bad pass [an interception]. But I understood what he was doing: He wanted to give the team a shot in the arm. I respect Don too much to argue. Besides, it worked out."

"First possession, Bob hit the big play," Warfield says. "It was third-and-long. I lined up in the slot, inside Howard Twilley. That meant [linebacker] Andy Russell was guarding me. Andy was smart—he never let anybody get to the inside. After a while, most teams stopped trying.

"Bob and I felt we could hit a big play there. I had to make it work, so I faked Russell out. I looked him straight in the eye, then I looked outside. I came off the line and broke outside. As soon as Russell turned, I cut underneath and Bob put the ball right on the money."

The completion gained 52 yards, setting up the touchdown that put Miami ahead 14-10. The Dolphins went on to win 21-17.

Another key play was a daring 37-yard run off a fake punt by Larry Seiple on fourth-down-and-5.

"It wasn't called, it just happened," says Seiple, now receivers coach with the Dolphins. "There was only one defender on that side of the field. I saw all that open space and I took off. I'm sure Don was cursing me, at least for the first ten yards."

"We were in shock when Larry started to run," Doug Swift says. "Here was this down-home, country character taken by a sudden bolt of genius. It would not have made sense in any context other than a perfect season."

"We were in shock when Larry started to run. Here was this down-home character taken by a sudden bolt of genius. It would not have made sense [except during] a perfect season."

The Dolphins were surprised—and irritated—to learn they were two-point underdogs to the Redskins (11-3 in the regular season) in Super Bowl VII.

"We were sixteen-and-oh," Buoniconti says. "How could we be underdogs to anybody?"

For the Miami coaches and players, this—an opportunity to excel in front of 90,000 fans in Los Angeles—was what they had worked toward for six long months. They were back in the Super Bowl with a chance to erase the memory of their bitter loss to Dallas.

Cornerback Tim Foley had kept a photograph of the scoreboard—Dallas 24, Miami 3—in his home. He said he looked at it every day in the offseason so he would not forget the hurt.

"I knew before we ever left Miami that Bob [Griese] was going to start," Morrall says. "Don called me into

the office and told me. I was disappointed, naturally, but I understood. I told Don I'd be ready on game day if he needed me.

"The hardest part was dealing with the press that week. I was asked a million times, 'Aren't you upset? Aren't you bitter?' They wanted me to rip Shula, which I wasn't about to do."

"I felt badly for Earl, but I admired him for the way he conducted himself," Csonka says. "To this day, I've never heard him second-guess Shula. I've never heard him say a bad word about anybody. I hope my sons grow up to be men like Earl Morrall."

"I felt good about our preparation going into the game," Shula says. "We had a good week of practice; our players were relaxed. Most of them had been through the [media] buildup the previous year, so they knew how to handle it.

"I didn't feel the pressure until the night before the game. That's when it hit me: 'If we lose this game, the whole season is down the drain. Sixteen-and-oh would mean nothing. We would be failures.' I told the players that in our team meeting.

"I had a personal stake in the game, too, because I was oh-and-two in Super Bowls, having lost one with the Colts before I went to Miami. There was talk that I couldn't win the big one. I have a lot of pride, so that really hurt. I never made it an issue with the players, but I'm sure they were aware."

"I woke up at six [A.M.] the day of the game," Buoniconti says. "I couldn't get back to sleep, I was too charged up. I went to the hotel coffee shop and Griese was there. I asked how he was feeling. He said, 'Nick, there is no way these guys can beat us.'

"That made me feel great because Griese *never* said things like that. He was the most conservative guy in the world. Hearing him say that, I knew we were home free."

"We had two weeks to prepare for that game," Griese says. "We had time to break down every film. I knew exactly what they would do in a given situation, and I knew what we could do to beat them. I played the game in my mind a dozen times.

"I knew if we were inside their thirty and we lined up in a certain formation, they would expect Twilley to run a slant pattern. We had done it all season. But this time we had Twilley fake a slant and cut back to the corner. The defender was caught flat-footed, Twilley was wide open. That was how we scored our first touchdown [a 28-yard pass]."

Evans says, "I still remember Shula's face. I thought he was going to choke Garo. He kept saying, 'What were you thinking?' Garo didn't have too many friends at that moment."

"Washington's offense was built around [halfback] Larry Brown," Dick Anderson says. "He was a tough runner, loved to cut back. We changed our defense for this game and put Manny [Fernandez, a tackle] over the center. He disrupted their blocking, and Brown had nowhere to go.

"We had a reputation as a finesse defense. Nobody gave us credit for being physical, but we were. I had one shot on Brown that knocked his helmet off. It's on the highlight film. We punished him so badly he didn't want to come out for the second half."

"We had the game in hand 14-0 with three minutes left," Morrall says. "We went in to kick a field goal and I thought, 'Gee, this is appropriate. We kick a field goal and win the game 17-0. We finish the season 17-0.'

"I was the holder. It was a routine kick [42 yards] and Garo hit it solidly, but someone got a hand up and blocked it. Next thing I knew, Garo had the ball and was trying to throw a pass. It slipped off his hand and [Redskins cornerback] Mike Bass took it in for a touchdown."

"I chased Bass, but I knew I'd never catch him," Evans says. "I still remember Shula's face. I thought he was going to choke Garo. He kept saying, 'What were you thinking?' Garo didn't have too many friends at that moment. Everyone on the bench was angry, because suddenly the Redskins were back in the game.

"I had never prayed to win a football game before, until that moment. I bowed my head and said, 'Please, God, don't let us lose this game.'"

The Redskins got the ball back with 1:14 to go. However, ends Den Herder and Bill Stanfill sacked Washington quarterback Billy Kilmer as the final seconds ticked away.

"Bill and I were on top of Kilmer and we wouldn't let him up," Den Herder says. "The referee was saying, 'Get off him.' We didn't even realize he was underneath us. We were too busy celebrating."

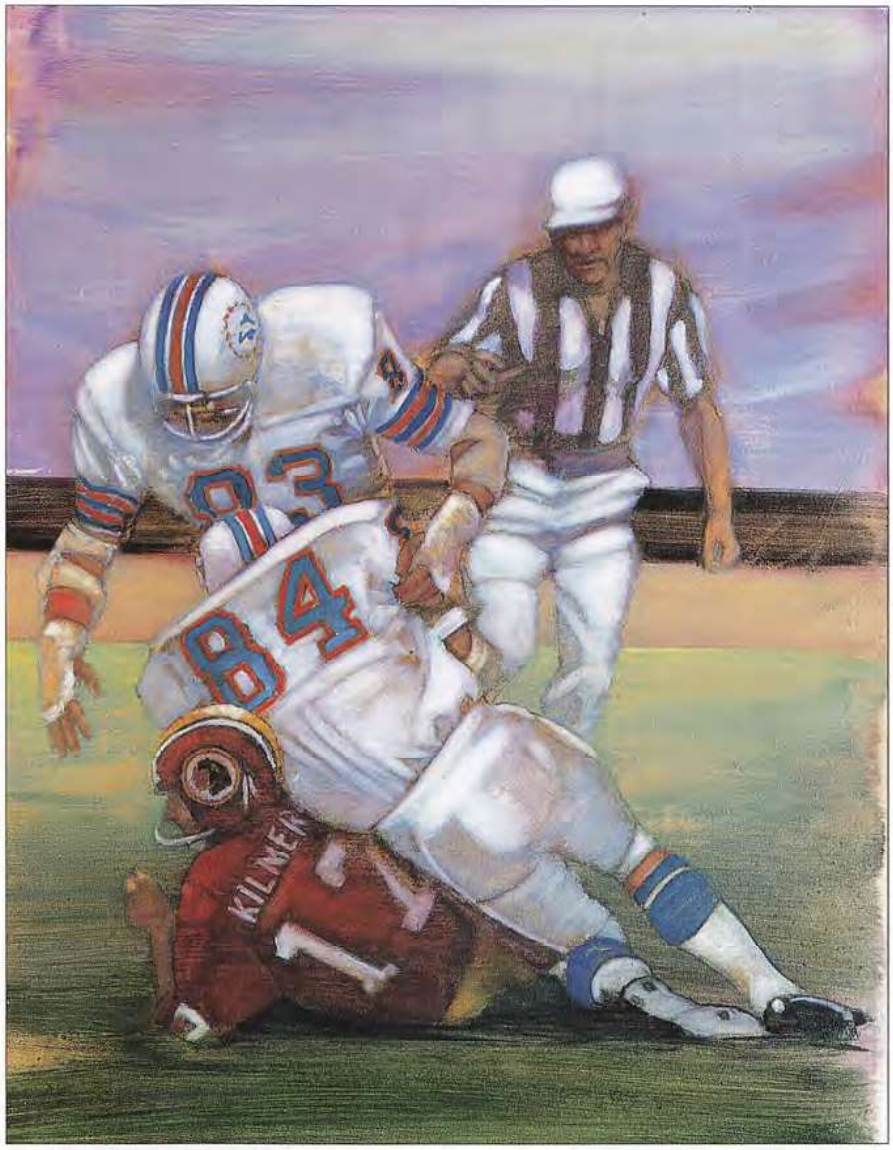
Twenty years later, the players from that landmark season are flirting with middle age.

Buoniconti is a gray-haired attorney. Griese is a network TV analyst. Morrall was a candidate for the Florida legislature in November. Csonka owns a farm in his native Ohio. Swift is a doctor in Philadelphia.

The club itself has moved from the Orange Bowl to Joe Robbie Stadium. It is a new era. Only the familiar profile of Don Shula, who was completing his twenty-third season as head coach in Miami in 1992, remains unchanged.

"I don't think that team ever received the credit it deserved," Shula says. "Look what it accomplished. It went to three straight Super Bowls. It lost a total of five games in those three years. It set a standard of excellence that is hard to match.

"Bill and I wouldn't let Kilmer up. The referee was saying, 'Get off him.' We didn't even realize he was underneath us. We were busy celebrating."



"We have only four players in the Hall of Fame and there should be more. The 'No-Name' thing probably works against those [defensive] players, but it shouldn't. We might not have been the most colorful team in the league, but look at the record. Who was better?"

"I don't think any team will ever do what we did," says Csonka, referring to the unbeaten season. "They would have to possess the same pride, the same smarts, the same selfless attitude that we had. I don't know if that's possible in today's game. There are too many factors pulling players in different directions. It is a different game now, a different breed of player."

"I'm not as protective of our record as other guys," Griese says. "Anderson and Buoniconti, for example, pop a bottle of champagne every year when the last unbeaten team goes down. They don't want anyone else to share our place in history.

"My attitude is, if a team is good enough to go undefeated, more power to them. We'll always be the *first* to have done it. No one can take that away from us."

"That's fine for Griese and Warfield to say," Mandich says. "They're in the Hall of Fame. They have their piece of history. But for guys like myself, Jake Scott, and Dick Anderson, the perfect season is all we've got to hang on to. So hell, yes, it means a lot."

"I'll always remember the night in 1985 when Chicago came to the Orange Bowl to play the Dolphins," Kuechenberg says. "The Bears were 12-0 and looked unbeatable. If any team was going to tie our record, it was them.

"Shula brought a bunch of our [1972] guys back that night to walk through the locker room and talk with the players. Csonka was there, Kiick, Mandich. Maybe a dozen guys. We walked around, shaking hands and saying, 'Hey, man, we need you tonight.' They knew what this meant, especially to Shula.

"The Orange Bowl was a foot off the ground that whole night. The Dolphins played a fabulous game [winning 38-24]. When it was over, Shula got up in the locker room and said, 'On behalf of all the players and coaches from 1972, thank you.' He had a tear in his eye as he said it.

"It was one football season, but for the guys who lived it, it will last forever." ☆

SPOTLIGHT

EIGHT MAY OR MAY NOT BE ENOUGH

In the Super Bowl, the NFC Keeps Winning and Winning and Winning and...

BY TOM BARNIDGE

Buffalo Bills running back Thurman Thomas was a high school senior at the time. Ronald Reagan was in his first term as President. No one except CIA operatives had heard of Mikhail Gorbachev. Eastern Airlines still was in business.

How long has it been since an American Football Conference team won a Super Bowl? Longer than Jerry Rice's professional career.

The last dinosaur was sighted on January 22, 1984. The Los Angeles Raiders defeated the Washington Redskins 38-9 in Super Bowl XVIII. Since then, you'd have to file a missing conference report.

The Broncos have lost three times, the Bills twice, and the Bengals, Patriots, and Dolphins once each, by scores ranging from 20-19 to 55-10. The games have been played indoors and outdoors, on natural grass and artificial turf, in Eastern, Central, and Pacific time zones. Only the outcome has remained unchanged. NFC teams have won eight successive times—by an average score of 37-16.

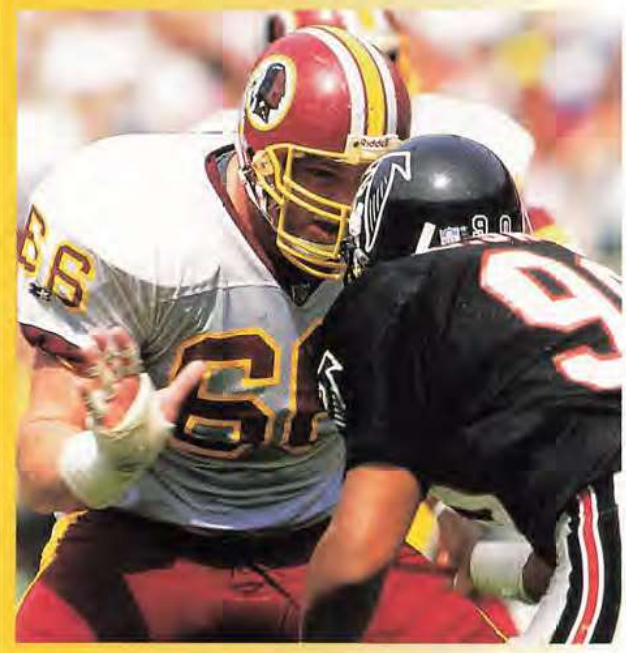
Remember when the AFC's Miami Dolphins won back-to-back Super Bowls? Remember when the Pittsburgh Steelers won four times in six years? Remember the conference that brought us Terry Bradshaw, Larry Csonka, and Joe Namath? Why has it suddenly found it so hard to win the biggest game?

Like other cosmic phenomena that have fascinated mankind, this mystery begs to be unraveled. Clearly, this was a case for the Football Bureau of Investigation.

Statistical charts were examined for clues: Rushing yardage? Turnovers? Possession time? Super Bowl depth charts were inspected for similarities. Rosters were indexed by height, weight, and age. Numbers and facts were crunched until they ached.

Following are the findings, made public for the first time. Not one theory, but four. Feel free to accept as many as you wish...and please call if you come up with any more.

THE BIG BANG THEORY



Scott Cunningham

Bigger, stronger blockers such as Joe Jacoby (above) have enabled the NFC to control the line of scrimmage.

The Big Bang Theory

The Houston Oilers thrill their fans with the Run-and-Shoot offense. The Buffalo Bills light up scoreboards with the No-Huddle. But teams that win Super Bowls don't rely on gimmicks. They cram the ball down their opponents' throats.

"When you look at the successful NFC teams," says Dan Dierdorf, commentator for ABC's Monday Night Football, "they are physically bigger and stronger than their AFC counterparts. The Redskins and the Giants [who won the previous two Super Bowls] were very similar smash-mouth type teams.

"For whatever reason—and

maybe it's because they have to play each other—the NFC teams seem to have concentrated their drafts on bigger, more physical players. Those teams can control the line of scrimmage. That's where you win big games."

On the ground, where yardage comes grudgingly and physical strengths are more easily compared, NFC teams have outgained AFC rivals in each of the eight victories (by a cumulative total of 1,347 yards to 560). In every victory, NFC teams rushed for more than 100 yards, and twice they exceeded 200; only twice in eight tries did AFC teams surpass 100 yards.

Bottom line, the AFC has been pushed around.

The Big Bang Theory gets conditional support from Al Groh, linebackers coach for the Cleveland Browns. He was an assistant with the Giants when they won Super Bowl XXV.

"It's too simplistic to say that it's just size and strength," he says, "but it *is* a factor. Teams in the NFC—especially in the NFC East—are trained to be physically tough."

It is hard to escape the hair-on-chest image...John Riggins...Lawrence Taylor...Joe Jacoby...Reggie White. And statistics support impressions. In 1991, the NFC East produced both the defense with the most quarterback sacks (the Eagles) and the offense that surrendered the fewest (the Redskins). If the NFC East opened a restaurant, it would serve only beef and potatoes.

"The AFC plays a little different style," Lynn Stiles says, "especially the teams that have had some success. You take Buffalo with the No-Huddle or Houston with the Run-and-Shoot. It's not the same tough, physical type of game."

Stiles is an AFC guy, vice president of player personnel for the Kansas City Chiefs. But in an earlier life he was an assistant coach with both the 49ers and the Eagles.

"You'll notice which AFC team was the only one to win the Super Bowl in the last ten years," he says. "It was the Raiders—a tough, strong, physical team. When they were on, they were as hard-nosed as anyone."

NFC teams are infatuated with size. They would play oxen if they could find helmets to fit. Consider the Redskins, who not only spread five Hogs across their offensive line but who often replace their wide receivers with three hulking tight ends.

"You see a lot of two- and three-tight end formations in the NFC," says Houston defensive coordinator Jim Eddy. "Especially in the NFC East. There is no question that it's more of a black-and-blue division. The physical aspect is a big thing."

Not everyone, however, fully embraces the bulkier-is-better theory. In fact, some don't embrace it at all.

"It's absolute bunk," says Bill Polian, general manager of the Bills. "If that theory were true, the Giants should have blown us out in Super Bowl XXV [the Giants won 20-19, and a missed field-goal in the final minute cost Buffalo the victory].

"In each year we went to the Super Bowl, we were 3-1 against the NFC during the regular season. In fact, we had beaten the Giants [17-13] just a month before we played them in the Super Bowl."

Further clouding the premise is this surprising fact: The Hogs' reputation notwithstanding, the Bills' starting offensive line actually outweighed Washington's in Super Bowl XXVI (on average, 290 pounds to 283). Ditto for the Bills against the Giants in Super Bowl XXV (293 to 283). In fact, the offensive-line starters for AFC teams have outweighed their NFC counterparts for the previous four years.

Besides which, Dierdorf concedes, this theory doesn't explain the success of the San Francisco 49ers—a team renowned for guile and finesse, not size and strength.

"The 49ers have won more Super Bowls than any of us," Giants general manager George Young says, "and they play like a stereotypical AFC team."

Which compelled the bureau to offer another explanation...

The Theory of Relativity

Think of the Super Bowl as a fistfight between two neighborhood kids, each the toughest on his block. The winner will be the one from the tougher neighborhood.

The NFC has more tough kids on its block. "I think you draw from your competition, the teams you face year-in and year-out," Stiles says. "That's the case in the NFC East. You know your competition, and you have to rise to that level to win."

"By the time they get through the regular season and the playoffs, NFC teams are competitively toughened," Groh says. "They develop a big-game confidence. It's something that's as much mental as it is physical.

"When I was with the Giants, we might have three straight weeks where we'd play at Philadelphia, at home against Washington, and then at Dallas. That is tantamount to a playoff environment. It is the essence of big-game competition."

Big-game competition breeds big-game confidence, which might be all that separates Super Bowl winners from Super Bowl losers.

"A team with big-game confidence knows how to seize the game when it's there to be seized," Groh says. "It knows how to keep it from slipping away. That's the psychological part of winning a big game."

THE THEORY OF RELATIVITY

Jerry Pinkus

The NFC continues to produce Super Bowl champions because its teams play better competition during the season.

EIGHT MAY OR MAY NOT BE ENOUGH

In recent seasons, it has been no easy feat to survive the rigors of the NFC. The Redskins of Super Bowl XXVI could make a strong case that they emerged from the toughest division in the toughest conference. Their only two losses in a 17-2 season were against fellow NFC East teams–the Eagles and the Cowboys. They also defeated the 12-4 Lions and the 10-6 Falcons during the season. Their intradivisional opponents were 33-31; Buffalo's were 23-41.

Is it any surprise that the Redskins made hors d'oeuvres of postseason opponents? They defeated three playoff foes, including the AFC champion Bills, by a cumulative score of 102-41.

Allan Webb, the 49ers' director of pro personnel for 10 years, says the phenomenon works in reverse, too.

"This is not to say that the AFC doesn't have good competition," he explains. "But a team like Buffalo, almost every year, is going to win its division. Things are more up in the air over here. In the NFC, you are playing a competitive game every week."

Because the only unchanging element of each team's schedule are games played within the division, those provide the clearest gauge of the competition.

The last three Super Bowl winners—Washington, the New York Giants, and San Francisco—faced fierce challenges within their divisions. The 1991 Redskins had to fend off the 11-5 Cowboys and the 10-6 Eagles. The 1990 Giants battled the 10-6 Redskins and 10-6 Eagles. The 1989 49ers survived the 11-5 Rams and the 9-7 Saints.

By contrast, the AFC representatives over the same three years—Buffalo (twice) and Denver—were faced with only one intradivisional foe that won more than eight games. That was in 1990, when the Bills outlasted the 12-4 Dolphins. It's probably worth noting that those 1990 Bills came the nearest to winning a Super Bowl for the AFC.

"When a team gets on top," Dierdorf says, "its opponents within the division, if they hope to get better, have to fill specific needs in order to compete. If you were in the same division as the Giants, for instance, when they threw Lawrence Taylor, Carl Banks, and Harry Carson at you every week, the only chance you had of winning was to get bigger, stronger people."

That's precisely how Washington's Hogs came to be.

"It's sort of self-perpetuating," Dierdorf says.

Super Cycles

The AFC and NFC each has enjoyed periods of dominance in the Super Bowl, as reflected by the results below. Games won by AFC (or AFL) teams are indicated in red, NFC (or NFL) in blue:

I	Green Bay 35, Kansas City 10
II	Green Bay 33, Oakland 14
III	New York Jets 16, Baltimore 7
IV	Kansas City 23, Minnesota 7
V	Baltimore 16, Dallas 13
VI	Dallas 24, Miami 3
VII	Miami 14, Washington 7
VIII	Miami 24, Minnesota 7
IX	Pittsburgh 16, Minnesota 6
X	Pittsburgh 21, Dallas 17
XI	Oakland 32, Minnesota 14
XII	Dallas 27, Denver 10
XIII	Pittsburgh 35, Dallas 31
XIV	Pittsburgh 31, Los Angeles Rams 19
XV	Oakland 27, Philadelphia 10
XVI	San Francisco 26, Cincinnati 21
XVII	Washington 27, Miami 17
XVIII	Los Angeles Raiders 38, Washington 9
XIX	San Francisco 38, Miami 16
XX	Chicago 46, New England 10
XXI	New York Giants 39, Denver 20
XXII	Washington 42, Denver 10
XXIII	San Francisco 20, Cincinnati 16
XXIV	San Francisco 55, Denver 10
XXV	New York Giants 20, Buffalo 19
XXVI	Washington 37, Buffalo 24

But not everyone agrees.

"I can't say that there is anything special going on...like we're smarter at getting players than AFC teams," the Giants' Young says. "When we go into the draft, I'm not conscious of whether the team ahead of us is in the NFC or AFC. I just think of us as having twenty-eight teams."

"We all have the same rules about player acquisitions," Broncos general manager John Beake adds. "It's not as if the NFC can do something that the AFC can't."

So, perhaps there is yet another explanation...

The Single-Bullet Theory

Broncos quarterback John Elway, a certified miracle worker, is 0-for-3 in the Super Bowl. Jim Kelly of the Bills, dissector of defenses, is 0-for-2. Even Miami's Dan Marino, the scariest passer on the planet, is 0-for-1 during the AFC's drought. With arms like these, why has the AFC lost?

Because offense doesn't win the Super Bowl.

Forget rushing offense, passing offense, and special teams. Forget about brilliant coaches and inspired game plans. There is one weapon no Super Bowl winner can do without: a rip-'em-up, rock-solid, unbending defense.

The NFC has better defensive teams.

"The one thing nobody seems to talk about," the Broncos' Beake says, "is that the teams that win the Su-

THE SINGLE-BULLET THEORY

Rob Brown

Offense is important, but even in the 49ers' case (above), defense has been the secret to winning championships.

per Bowl are all pretty good defensive teams."

"In most cases, it's the defense that gets a team where it is," Stiles adds. "As much as was said about the 49ers' offense when they were winning all those Super Bowls, you ought to check their defensive statistics."

Exhibits A, B, and C for the defense:

- The 49ers arrived at Super Bowl XXIV (a 55-10 victory over Denver) with the NFL's fourth-ranked defense. On average, they surrendered just 289 yards and 16 points per game.
- Entering Super Bowl XXIII (a 20-16 victory over Cincinnati), the 49ers' defense was ranked third. Opponents averaged only 286 yards and 18 points per game.
- Entering Super Bowl XIX, when the NFC streak began (a 38-16 victory over Miami), the 49ers ranked a modest tenth in average yardage allowed (326) but first in average points (14). And they faced a Miami team ranked nineteenth defensively, a team that lived or died with its pass offense.

Since then, only one NFC Super Bowl team *has not* ranked among the league's top four defensive teams. Only one AFC entrant (the 1989 Broncos) *has*. It may explain why AFC teams have been outscored by 172 points in the previous eight games.

In the AFC's only victory in a decade—when the Los Angeles Raiders defeated Washington in Super Bowl XVIII—Los Angeles had the NFL's fourth-ranked defense. The Redskins should have known they wouldn't win. They ranked twelfth.

"The game always has come down to defense," Houston's Eddy says. "Defense and ball control. If you can stop the other offense and hang on to the ball, you're going to win almost every game."

This rule of thumb is at least as old as the Super Bowl. In the 1966 season that preceded the first AFL-NFL Championship Game, the Green Bay Packers permitted the fewest points in either league. In the Super Bowl, they allowed only one touchdown as they destroyed Kansas City 35-10.

Are NFC defenses that much stronger than their AFC counterparts? Not from top to bottom, perhaps, but the disparity among the best teams was fairly obvious in the 1991 season. Seven of the league's eight top-ranked defenses—including numbers one through four—were in the National Conference. Overall, NFC teams surrendered 5,722 fewer yards, 216 fewer points, and 363 fewer first downs. The NFC's Redskins won the Super Bowl 37-24 that season.

So that's that?

Not yet. There's more.

The Gravity Theory

Thanks in part to the Miami Dolphins, who won back-to-back championships, and the Pittsburgh Steelers, who won four in six years, the American Football Conference once dominated the Super Bowl. From Super Bowls III through XV, the AFC won 11 of 13 games. Sooner or later, a pendulum that had swung so high had to swing back down again.

"I don't think there is any simple reason why one conference wins," says John Madden, CBS-TV commentator. "If there were a simple reason, the AFC would fix it, and it wouldn't happen again."

"We need to stress something in this discussion," the Bills' Polian adds. "The Super Bowl is not a game between two conferences. It's a game between two teams. When you talk about the NFC winning eight straight times, I think that's just coincidence.

"I would refer you back to the Cincinnati-San Francisco game [Super Bowl XXIII], when Joe Montana, arguably the best quarterback in history, had to engineer a last-minute touchdown drive to win the game...and to Super Bowl twenty-five, where the Giants beat us [because a last-play field goal was wide] by three feet."

The observation has merit. If Super Bowls XXIII and XXV had been reversed, the AFC would have won two of the previous four and six of the last 14 games. If Montana's touchdown drive had failed and Scott Norwood's 47-yard field-goal attempt had been good, there wouldn't be much talk about NFC domination.

As it is, NFC (or NFL) teams have won 14 Super Bowls and AFC (or AFL) teams 12—a pretty even split over 26 seasons.

"I don't think there's a heckuva lot of difference between the two conferences," says Young, whose Giants are 2-0 in the Super Bowl. "When we go head-to-head during the season, you can see that we're evenly matched. [From 1984-1991, the NFC owns a narrow 208-201-1 advantage.]

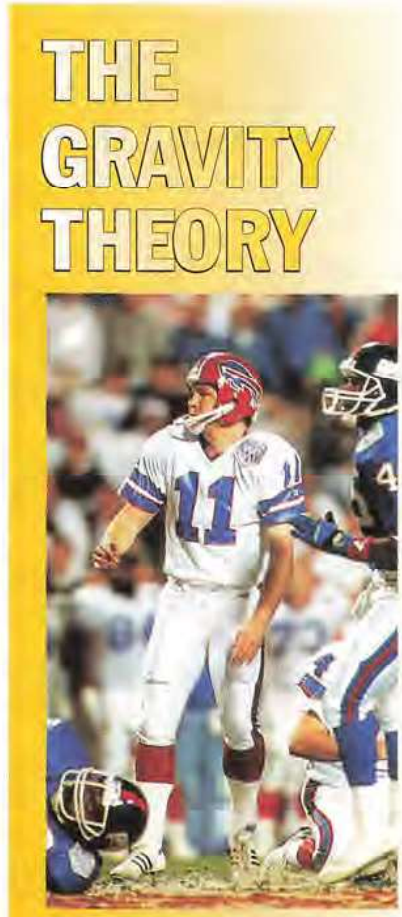
"I tend to think things go in cycles. I've believed that for as long as I've been in football. I don't think there's a real answer to why this has happened. Certainly, nothing scientific."

Perhaps that perspective will lighten the burden on this year's AFC champion. Perhaps those players won't feel responsible for what has preceded them. But it's difficult not to be aware of an eight-year losing streak.

"There is a psychological factor involved when one conference keeps winning, year after year," Webb says. "Players manufacture things in their minds. That winds up affecting their level of confidence."

"Right now, it might be a mental block as much as anything else," Young agrees. "If AFC players keep reading stories like this—that they can't win the Super Bowl—maybe that's why it keeps coming true."

Quick, everybody. Hide your programs. ☆



Manny Rubio

If Scott Norwood's kick (above) had been good, the streak would have ended.

SPOTLIGHT

A GAME GUY

BY BILL MCGRANE

"*Well, William...*"

He mimicked her tone—overly loud and cheery. Why is it we feel obliged to talk to older people as if they were preschoolers?

I wasn't there...he told me about it. But I can see him, rolling his eyes and arching what's left of his eyebrows. He was taking the vision test to renew his driver's license, and the woman went on to say, "You certainly have good eyesight for someone your age."

On the afternoon of the same day he looked out the window of his sister's house.

"What are you watching?" his sister asked.

"A fly on an upstairs window of the house across the street down at the end of the block," he said. "I've got good eyesight for someone my age."

Granny...

It's a big day today for the people who run the National Football League. But, while their bodies are in Pasadena, their thoughts are with one of their own...one of their dearest, as a matter of fact. And not just because it must seem terribly wrong to be running a Super Bowl without Bill Granholm. The guy performed more functions than a Swiss Army knife.

Granholm agreed with the caterer that one slice of cold meat certainly was sufficient for his sandwich, discreetly adding that the "football chaps" might require more.

There was that side, but there was a tough side, too. There was dignity. And a sense of humor like a sandbur wrapped in a silk scarf. Describing an acquaintance given to bombast, he once said, "He's the only guy I know who can brighten a room by leaving it."

He used all of those skills to fight cancer before losing the battle. Granholm died January 9. He was 70.

Bill Granholm grew up in Wausau, Wisconsin. He wasn't a star athlete—he was small, fine-boned, and bespectacled—but he loved sport, and it became part of him. He was the student manager of the high school teams. One of his best friends back then starred on all the Wausau teams and the two of them went a long way together. The friend was Elroy Hirsch, who would become an All-America at Wisconsin and a Pro Football Hall of Fame flanker for the Los Angeles Rams.

Much of the success of the NFL is traced to Pete Rozelle. One of the astute things Rozelle did was to surround himself with good people. And one of the people who followed Pete to New York was Granholm, then the Rams' equipment manager.

"Our contact with players was growing, we were getting involved in USO activities, and we needed somebody who understood teams and their needs for the Super Bowl," Rozelle said. "Bill's all-around skills were perfect for us. He was a good equipment man, but he was so much more than that."

He attended the University of Wisconsin, then served in World War II, in Patton's Third Army.

He served in North Africa, at Normandy, in the Ardennes, and at the Battle of the Bulge. His military decorations included five battle stars and a Bronze Star with cluster.

He loved the military, loved its flavor and feel, its people and its order. So when the NFL began USO tours in 1966, he was a natural to lead player groups to Europe and the Far East. His first tour went in 1966—Granny and Willie Davis, Frank Gifford, Sam Huff, and Johnny Unitas. His last group, in 1988, had Jim Collins, Linden King, Mark May, and Matt Suhey.

"Half the officers in the Army know Granny," said Jim Kensil, a long-time confederate of Granholm in the league office. "When he'd take a few days off and bum around Europe, he didn't stay at hotels, he stayed at Army bases."

A Granholm group was in Saigon after the 1967 season, and among their number was Vikings fullback Bill Brown. They stayed in a military hotel, where they were warned that a Viet Cong attack was expected. The attack came, all right—it was the stunning Tet Offensive. The players had been told to rush to the hotel basement if fighting broke out, and to bring along the mattresses from their bunks.

"The bombardment started in the middle of the night," Granholm said. "Everybody in the hotel ran for the basement—not just guys, but women and children, too. Brownie came dashing in with his mattress up over his head. That was all he had...he didn't sleep with any clothes on. He spent the rest of the night with his mattress wrapped around him like a skirt."

Suhey, an ex-Bear and a member of Granholm's last two tours, remembers the bus rides in Germany, Japan, and Korea. "There'd just be a few of us in a big bus," Suhey says. "We'd start rolling and it was like Granny was a magnet. We'd gather around him and he'd lean back and start telling stories. Those tours weren't a vacation. We enjoyed it, but we put in a lot of hours and we got up in the middle of the night to go places. Bill was a master at balancing everything, at keeping us happy and getting the job done."

In 25 years on the NFL staff, Granholm's travel schedule often was heroic. I recall hearing from him on a Sunday night a few years ago. He was in the NFL office between trips, catching up on his paperwork. He had come in from Tokyo on Saturday and was leaving for Berlin on Monday night.

In addition to leading the USO tour and working on postseason games, Granholm was the NFL's man abroad as the game took root in Europe and the Far East during the 1980s. He scouted sites in dozens of cities worldwide and helped set up games in England, Germany, Sweden, and Japan. I know from firsthand experience that he is acquainted with more of the many nooks and crannies of London's Wembley Stadium than the people who work there.

He also became an expert in using a soft touch and a measured pace. In England, he solved the Cowboys' box-lunch crisis at Crystal Palace, agreeing with the caterer that one slice of cold meat certainly was sufficient for his sandwich, but discreetly adding that the "football chaps" might require more.

Granny started a 47-year run in pro football with the Chicago Rockets of the old All-America Football Conference. When he was their equipment manager, he lived at Soldier Field, which would be kind of like living in Dr. Frankenstein's castle. He went to the Rams in 1950 and spent 17 years in Los Angeles before going to New York in 1967.

The late Dan Reeves, who owned the Rams, stayed at arm's length from most people. One exception was Granholm. "I remember we played in New York in the early sixties and Pete [Rozelle] had scheduled a league meeting the next day," Granny said of Reeves. "Dan had some other business that day, so he told me to stay in New York in order to go to the meeting with him.

"So, on Monday, Dan and I go to the meeting. After a few hours, Dan gets up and leaves me—the team equipment manager—to represent the Rams."

The late George Allen, who coached the Rams from 1966 to 1970, suspected Granny's relationship with Reeves was even closer than that. Allen, whose own interaction with Reeves could be contentious, believed that Bill and Dan's daughter, Charlotte, were an item.

"Dan often asked me to accompany his daughters at dinners or other events," Granny recalled. "A few people around the team intimated to George that I might be running the Rams some day.

"He [Allen] would pull me aside and say, 'Play your cards right, Bill; it all could be yours.'

"It was fun for a few days. Then I told him he didn't have to worry about the equipment guy someday being his boss."

Once, after he had moved to New York, Granholm returned to Los Angeles to serve as a pallbearer at a friend's funeral. During the visit, he stayed at the house of Jack Teele, an old Rams crony.

"Granny had his dark suit laid out in the guest room, and our cat, Frisky, peed on it," Teele said. "Granny had to wear a vanilla-colored suit to the funeral. The next time he was in L.A. our kids asked him if he'd had his suit cleaned. He said, 'Yes, but whenever I wear it, dogs follow me.'"

That was Granholm, always making sure not to embarrass anyone. Still, Don Weiss, another league-office friend, *was* embarrassed when he addressed Bill on one occasion.

"I had entered a hotel elevator and was followed by several chatty, elderly women—grandmother types," Weiss said. "Bill also got on and was standing near the floor-selection buttons. I had forgotten to push a button, so I called to Bill, 'Hey, Granny, push the ninth floor for me.'

"Instantly, there was silence. The women snapped their heads back toward me and gave me a look that would make the devil cringe. Bill just flashed a sheepish grin."

During his early years with the Rams, Granholm would go with the players to a favorite bar. Sometimes wives were included. Norm Van Brocklin, the mercurial quarterback, had an equally mercurial wife, Gloria. The Dutchman liked to sit at the bar and talk to teammates. He would send Granholm to dance with Gloria. "It was a no-win deal," Granny recalled. "They'd both end up mad at me."

Weiss describes his friendship with Granholm as "a living experience, more than a collection of anecdotes. He's so observant. I was visiting him in the hospital in Wisconsin, and I happened to look at the real estate ads in the Wausau paper. I live on Long Island and it's interesting to compare prices. A week after I got home, I got a big envelope with four Wausau real estate listing books."

Last summer they named the annual American Bowl preseason game in Berlin in Bill's honor: The winner gets the William A. Granholm Trophy. "He's done more than anyone to carry American football around the globe," said Commissioner Paul Tagliabue, "spreading his infectious love of our sport."

I remember some grand summer evenings in Gothenburg a few years ago, rehashing the day's activities as we prepared for the only NFL game ever played in Sweden. The rehashing always ended up with Granny spinning yarns.

So what's all of this about?

It's about a man, good and true, who beat the odds by spending his life doing the work that he loved...even when his suitcase fell out of a plane's baggage compartment in Saudi Arabia, and another plane, taxiing, ran over it. It's about a man who enriched so many lives just by passing through them.

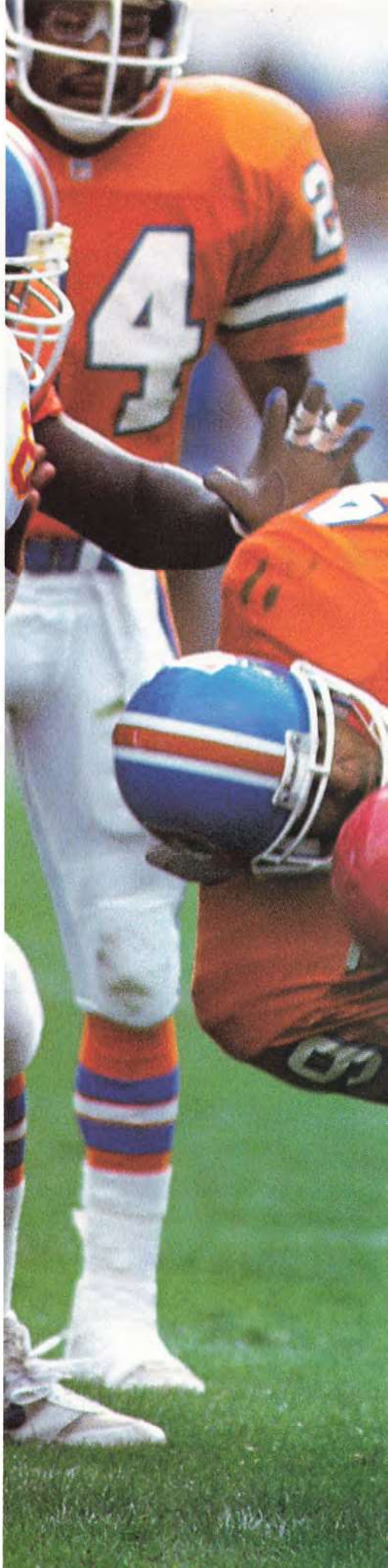
Actually, it's a love story.

Hey, Granny, you remember the time... ☆

NFL Properties

BEST SHOTS 1992

If, as Ivan Tugenev said, "a picture shows me at a glance what it takes dozens of pages of a book to expound," then you'd better make a stiff cup of cappuccino (this *is* Los Angeles) and locate a comfortable spot by the fireplace, because this section speaks volumes. Here are the very elements that elevate pro football to a passion in the lives of many Americans: the color, the visual drama, the emotional intensity, the athletic excellence, the pain, and, finally, the exultation.



Safeties in Numbers
When it comes to battering opposing receivers, few safety tandems evoke more worry than Steve Atwater and Dennis Smith of the Broncos. Kansas City's J.J. Birden, who emerged as a standout wide receiver in 1992, found himself between the proverbial rock and hard place when he tried to maneuver past Smith (49) and Atwater (27) during Denver's 20-19 victory in October.

Rob Brown

27

Win
76
82

The Eyes of Green Bay Were Upon Them
Few images could give you a better feel for what it's like to stretch every muscle, every tendon for a sailing football—all under the scrutiny of some 57,000 interested parties, in this case the partisans of Lambeau Field. The Packers' Sanjay Beach (82) got half of a half-step on Cincinnati's Eric Thomas, but he couldn't reel in this potential touchdown pass.

Tony Tomsic

NORTON
FAVERETT
Riddell
RAIDER

Gridlock in Los Angeles

The L.A. freeway system is notorious for getting people nowhere fast—maybe you experienced that bit of local flavor this afternoon—but even those clogged arteries offer smooth sailing compared to NFL running lanes. Raiders fullback Steve Smith (35) got an encouraging push from guard Todd Peat (64), but Dallas linebackers Ken Norton (51) and Robert Jones (55), among others, brought all traffic to a standstill.

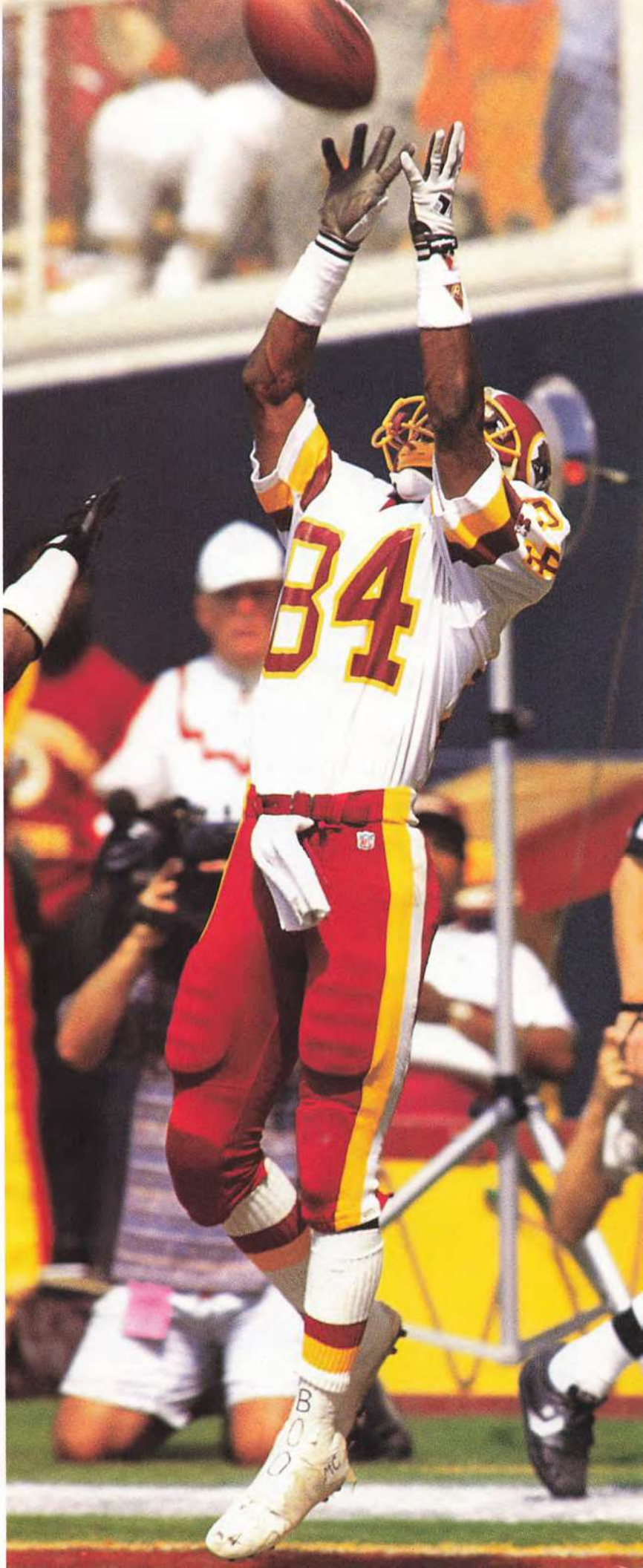
Peter Read Miller

GIANTS
GIANTS
52
30

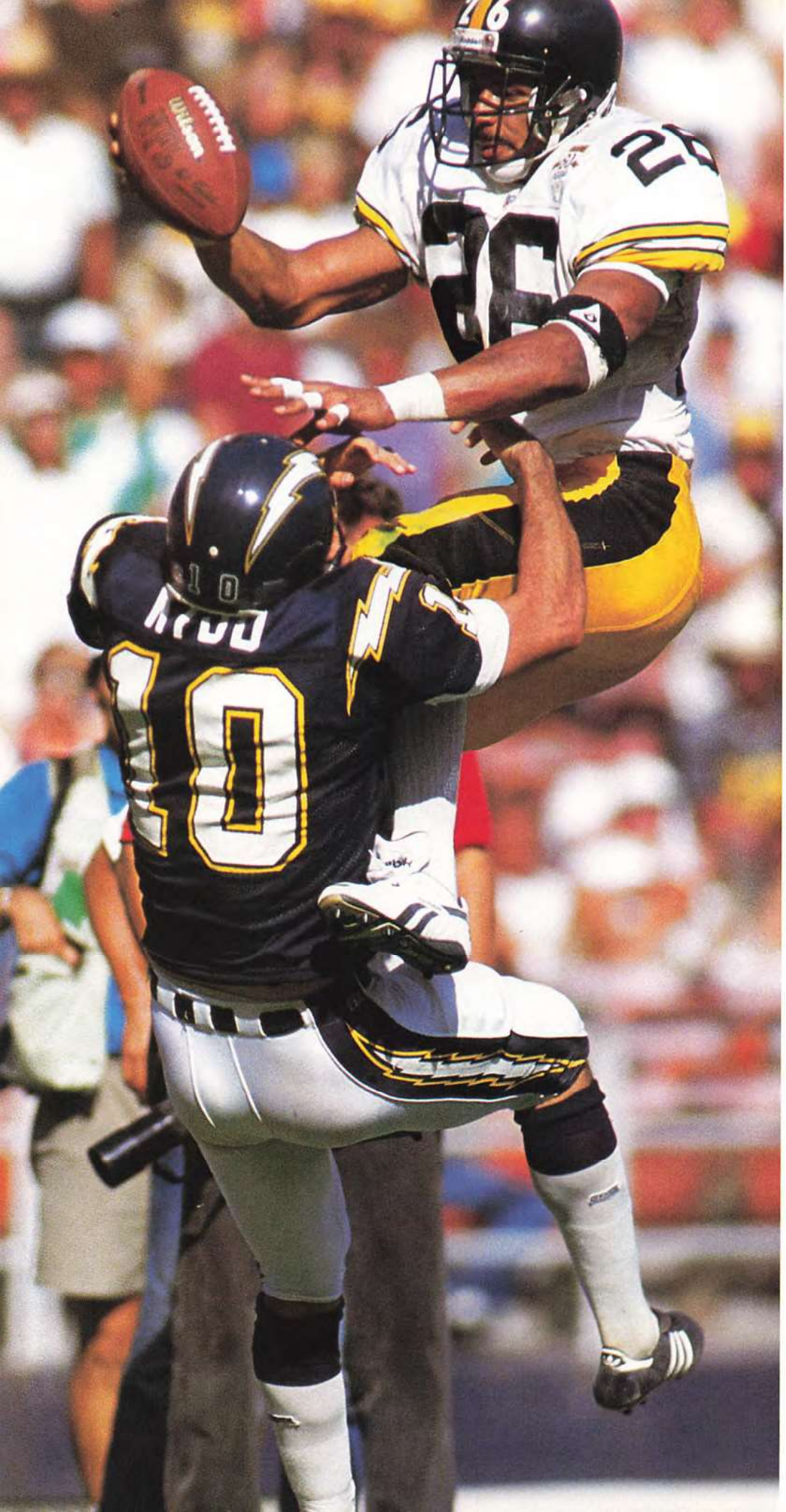
Assault and Pepper
San Francisco won the war, a 31-14 road victory over the Giants on opening day, but New York linebacker Pepper Johnson (52, left) and his cohorts won the battle on this play, pummeling Keith Henderson and forcing the running back to cough up the football.

Jim Turner

Outreach Program
They say the anti-incumbent sentiment in Washington wasn't manifested as strongly as expected during last November's elections. It certainly didn't materialize in that city during the 1992 football season, as the Redskins mostly relied on the same group of players that had led them to victory in Super Bowl XXVI. Wide receiver Gary Clark, one of those veteran stalwarts, helped the cause with a leaping touchdown reception (right) in a 24-17 win over Atlanta.



Scott Cunningham



Leaping Wizards, Part I
Rod Woodson qualified for the 1984 Olympic trials in the 110-meter hurdles, but even he can't leap over tall punters in a single bound. The Pittsburgh punt returner, who doubles as a Pro Bowl cornerback, reverted to his track mentality (left) at the end of a 46-yard return against San Diego in September.

Leaping Wizards, Part II
At 6 feet 3 inches, Minnesota's Cris Carter doesn't need much help in reaching great heights. But he got a bad-intentioned boost from Buccaneers cornerback Ricky Reynolds on this jump (right), which became sort of a modified western roll. Carter was having a tremendous season before he was sidelined with a broken collarbone in late November.

Peter Brouillet

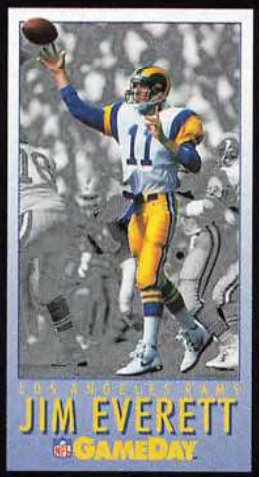
Dirty Little War

During a memorable early season game at San Francisco, Buffalo wide receiver Andre Reed got some quick instruction in the infield fly rule: Don't fly across the Candlestick Park infield unless you are prepared to get dumped, in this instance by linebacker Bill Romanowski. The Bills outscored the 49ers 34-31 in what was considered by some to be a Super Bowl preview.

Greg Trott

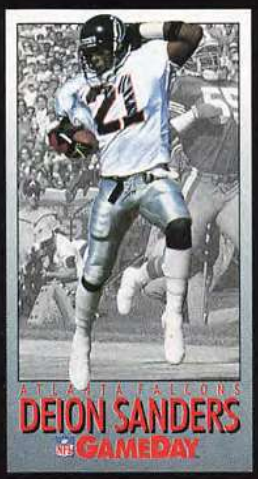
The Card of the Year in '92 Goes for Two Straight in '93

NFL GAMEDAY



• Chuck Bennett of *SCD* wrote, 'I am a big fan of GameDay cards.' The editors of *Baseball Card News* said, '[We] have loved GameDay since we first saw the prototypes last summer.'

• In '93, GameDay once again will utilize the best action photography from the NFL files, reproduced in large format. Production will be limited to a maximum of 17,500 numbered, certified cases.



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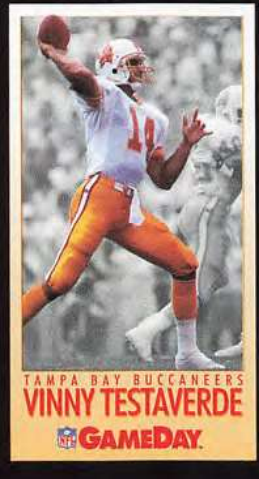
• Don't take our word for it. In rating all football cards for '92, three *Tuff Stuff* critics gave GameDay A's, one a B–by far the highest marks of any card. 'The top set,' they agreed.

• Don Butler of *SCD* wrote, 'This is the first time in many years I've been compelled to take out a set at least once a day and simply page through all the cards. I love this set.'

• GameDay cards are written and produced by the same staff of pros responsible for *GameDay* and *Team NFL* magazines, and the Super Bowl game program. Reserve '93 GameDay cards now–call 1-800-NFL-1118.



• Call us now at 1-800-NFL-1118 to ask about GameDay GameBreakers, a special, numbered 13-card set that is available while supplies last only when you place an order for GameDay cards before June 1, 1993.

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At Arm's Length

Chiefs linebacker Lonnie Marts is accustomed to shoving running backs around, but that could change if he spends a few more years in the AFC West. San Diego's Marion Butts, 248 pounds of football-toting mayhem, is one runner who isn't afraid to get in a defender's face (right).

Brian Spurlock

CAPTAIN
35

Marlboro

Ten O'clock and All's Well in Buffalo
It was quite a sight when Luna dropped in to watch the Bills grapple with Indianapolis in a Sunday-night game. The full moon brought out the beast in Buffalo, which clearly outshone its divisional rival in a 38-0 pasting.

Mike Groll

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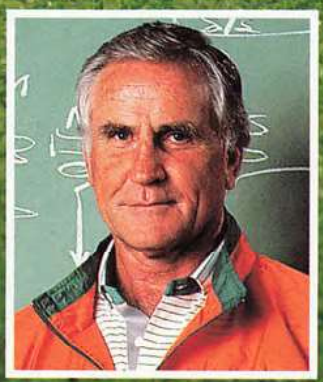
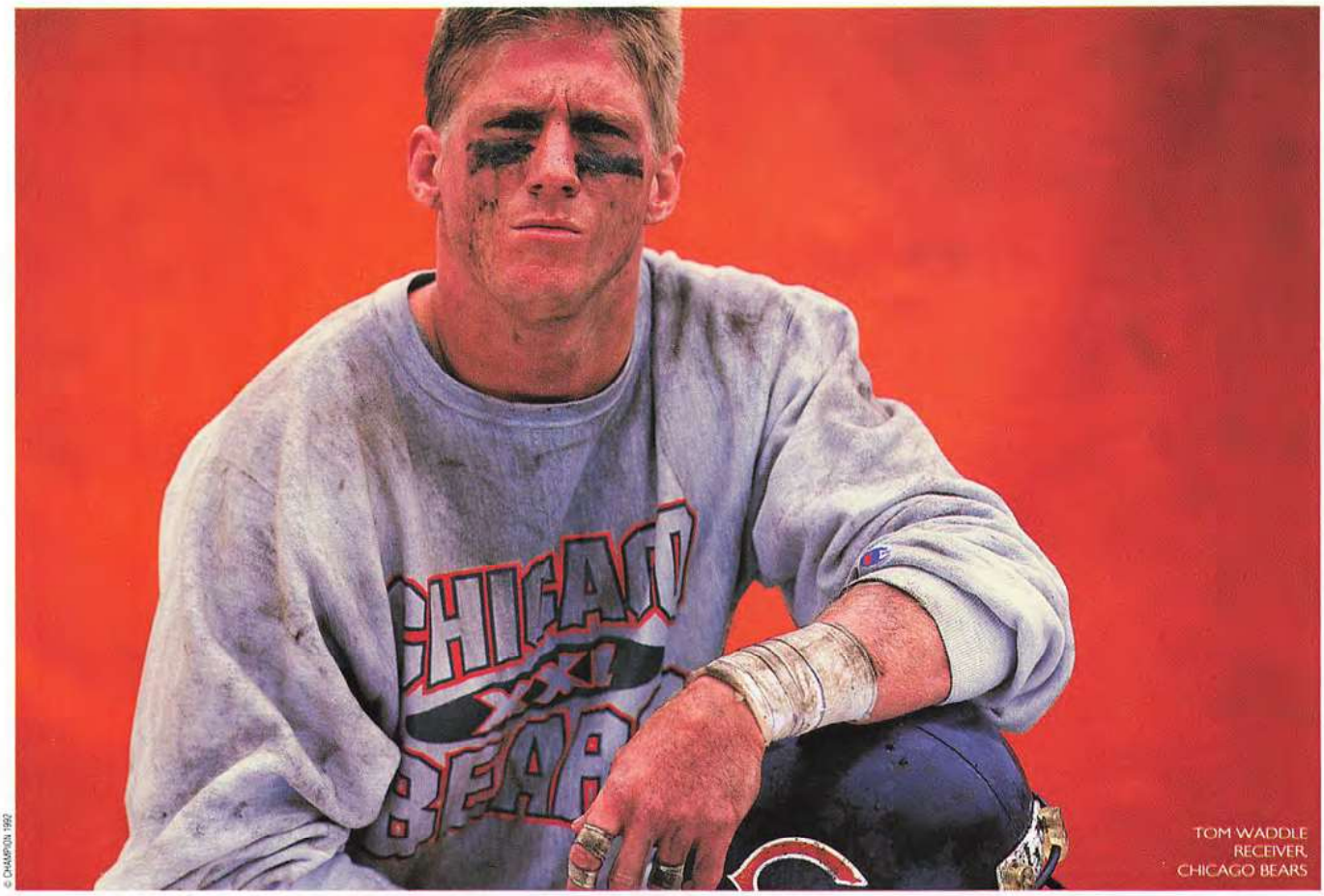


Champion



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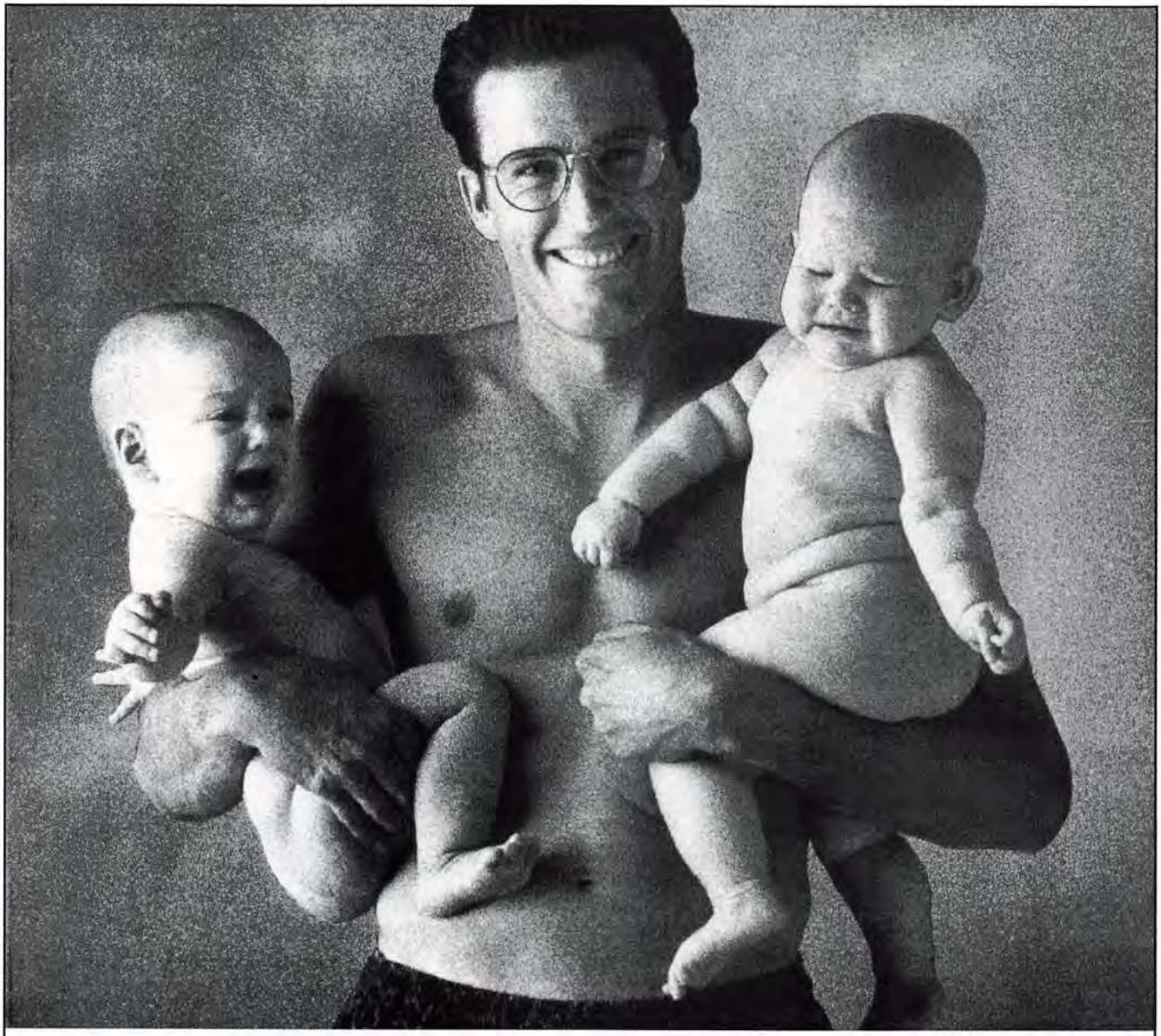

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1992 REPLAY

By Jim Perry

1992

ROSE BOWL

Week-by-Week Review of the Season in Words and Photographs

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Team NFL Players

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WEEK 1

Cowher, Steelers Shock Oilers at Houston; Rookie Coaches Break Fast From Starting Gate

SEPTEMBER 6

Chuck Noll, Bill Cower's predecessor as Pittsburgh Steelers head coach, won 209 games, fifth best in NFL history. Now, it was Cowher's turn—and he didn't waste any time.

On opening day, Cowher picked up victory number one—and it was a big one.

"We're going to savor this...it's a great feeling," he said after the Steelers surprised the defending AFC Central-champion Oilers 29-24 at Houston. "I'm not sure anyone in America gave us a chance—except us."

Steven Murphy

Former Cincinnati coach Sam Wyche pumped his fist in excitement as his new team, Tampa Bay, stopped Phoenix.

Cowher was just one of nine new coaches (the most since 1978) as the NFL kicked off its seventy-third season. Five of the new men had winning debuts.

Ted Marchibroda, who coached the Baltimore Colts in the late 1970s, came back to lead his old team (now in Indianapolis) past Cleveland 14-3. It was the Colts' first win on opening day since 1983.

Dave Shula, at 33 the youngest head coach in the NFL, directed Cincinnati to a 21-3 victory over Seattle and its new coach, Tom Flores.

Sam Wyche, who used to be at Cincinnati, directed Tampa Bay's welcome wagon past Phoenix 23-7.

And Dennis Green and Minnesota outlasted Green Bay and another first-year head coach, Mike Holmgren, 23-20 in overtime.

But the most unexpected victory was Pittsburgh's. Favored Houston jumped to a 14-0 lead and led 24-16 at halftime, with Warren Moon on his way to a 330-yard, 2-touchdown day.

Unfortunately for the Oilers, Moon also was on his way to 5 interceptions, including 2 each by cornerback Rod Woodson and safety Larry Griffin. Those Houston mistakes set up 2 touchdowns and a field goal.

"I didn't think we'd lose this game," Houston defensive tackle Ray Childress said. "This is really embarrassing for me and my teammates."

The embarrassed Oilers were clinging to a 24-22 lead early in the fourth quarter, when Moon scrambled right and threw left into the end zone on second-and-goal from the Pittsburgh 3. Woodson intercepted the pass and carried it back 57 yards, setting up Pittsburgh's game-winnng 43-yard drive.

Neil O'Donnell's 9-yard touchdown pass to tight end Adrian Cooper, the quarterback's second scoring pass of the day, was the difference. O'Donnell's teammate, Barry Foster, rushed for 107 yards and a touchdown.

At Indianapolis, the Colts, 1-15 in 1991, started off 1-0 in '92 by sacking Browns quarterback Bernie Kosar a club-record-tying 11 times, one short of the NFL mark. Marchibroda's team held Cleveland to 145 yards of total offense.

"It was an awesome team effort," said linebacker Chip Banks, who had 4 sacks. "Kosar began to look confused."

Also confused was Colts quarterback Mark Herrmann, who directed the victorious offense and threw a touchdown pass to ex-Brown Reggie Langhorne ...then was cut the next day.

At Seattle, new Cincinnati head coach Dave Shula watched happily as his defense sacked Seahawks quarterback Kelly Stouffer 6 times and returned 2 fumbles for touchdowns in the Bengals' victory.

Linebacker Ray Bentley and safety Fernandus Vinson scored on 75- and 22-yard runs with Browns fumbles, while Harold Green led

Quote:

Rams quarterback **Jim Everett**, after feeling the intense pressure of Bills defensive end **Bruce Smith** all day in Los Angeles's 40-7 loss to Buffalo:

"The onions he had before the game were killing me."

Marv Rubin

Players of the Week

AFC OFFENSE—Bottled up most of the game by the Raiders' fierce defense, **John Elway** drove Denver 85 yards to the winning touchdown—Reggie Rivers's 1-yard run with 55 seconds left—as the Broncos nipped Los Angeles 17-13.

AFC DEFENSE—Linebacker **Chip Banks** had 4 sacks, made 4 other tackles, and intercepted a pass to set up a touchdown as the Colts stopped the Browns 14-3.

James D. Smith

Banks sacked Kosar 4 times.

Tad Fruits

Smith ran for 139 yards.

NFC OFFENSE—**Emmitt Smith** rushed for 139 yards and a touchdown to lead Dallas past defending Super Bowl champion Washington 23-10.

NFC DEFENSE—Defensive end **Chris Doleman** had 9 tackles, including 2 sacks, forced 3 fumbles, and recovered another to set up a field goal, boosting Minnesota over Green Bay 23-20 in overtime.

David Drapkin

The Eagles retired the jersey (number 99) of Pro Bowl defensive tackle Jerome Brown, killed in a car crash in June, then beat the Saints.

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	1	0	0
Indianapolis	1	0	0
Miami	0	0	0
New England	0	0	0
N.Y. Jets	0	1	0
AFC Central			
Cincinnati	1	0	0
Pittsburgh	1	0	0
Cleveland	0	1	0
Houston	0	1	0
AFC West			
Denver	1	0	0
Kansas City	1	0	0
L.A. Raiders	0	1	0
San Diego	0	1	0
Seattle	0	1	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	1	0	0
Philadelphia	1	0	0
N.Y. Giants	0	1	0
Phoenix	0	1	0
Washington	0	1	0
NFC Central			
Chicago	1	0	0
Minnesota	1	0	0
Tampa Bay	1	0	0
Detroit	0	1	0
Green Bay	0	1	0
NFC West			
Atlanta	1	0	0
San Francisco	1	0	0
L.A. Rams	0	1	0
New Orleans	0	1	0

Scores

AFC
Cincinnati 21, Seattle 3
Denver 17, L.A. Raiders 13
Indianapolis 14, Cleveland 3
Kansas City 24, San Diego 10
Pittsburgh 29, Houston 24
NFC
Chicago 27, Detroit 24
Dallas 23, Washington 10
Minnesota 23, Green Bay 20 (OT)
Philadelphia 15, New Orleans 13
San Francisco 31, N.Y. Giants 14
Tampa Bay 23, Phoenix 7
Interconference
Atlanta 20, N.Y. Jets 17
Buffalo 40, L.A. Rams 7

the offense by rushing for 123 yards.

"I wanted to spike the ball," Bentley said after his touchdown. "But I couldn't raise my arms because I was too tired."

On a rain-slick field in Green Bay, Dennis Green's Vikings, who went 4-0 in the preseason, squeezed past the Packers on Fuad Reveiz's 25-yard field goal with 10:20 gone in overtime.

The winning kick was set up by Terry Allen's 45-yard run to the Packers' 11. Allen, the NFL's leading rusher in week 1 with 140 yards (on just 12 carries), also set up a fourth-quarter touchdown with a 51-yard run. Rich Gannon added 2 short touchdown passes to Hassan Jones.

Tampa Bay held the Cardinals to 181 yards in its winning debut.

"It isn't like we won the Super Bowl or anything like that," new head coach Wyche said. "But we do know how important that first win is, too."

Mike Ditka's Chicago Bears certainly know. The Bears beat the Lions 27-24 on Jim Harbaugh's fourth-down, 6-yard touchdown pass to Tom Waddle, who made a falling catch with one second left. It was the Bears' ninth successive victory on opening day.

"Incredible," groaned Detroit's Barry Sanders, who ran for 109 yards and scored on a spectacular 43-yard run. "To do that, to put out that effort, and then to lose...all that thrown away."

The two teams scored three touchdowns in the last 2:55, starting with Neal Anderson's 18-yard touchdown run for a 20-17 Bears lead. The Lions regained the lead 24-20 on Rodney Peete's 27-yard scoring pass to Willie Green with 1:12 remaining, but the Bears roared 74 yards in 71 seconds to win it.

Before their game in Philadelphia, the Eagles retired the number-99 jersey of Pro Bowl defensive tackle Jerome Brown, who was killed in a car crash in June. Then they went out and held the Saints to 8 first downs, winning 15-13.

Randall Cunningham, bouncing back from a severe knee injury that benched him for the last 15 games in 1991, threw touchdown passes to Herschel Walker and Fred Barnett. In his first regular-season game with Philadelphia, Walker also ran for 114 yards.

"It's very satisfying to play with this team," Walker said. "We have a lot of weapons."

So do the 49ers. They won their last six games in 1991, then made it seven in a row with a 31-14 rout of the Giants.

Quarterback Steve Young, playing in place of injured Joe Montana, threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to fullback Tom Rathman, then left in the first quarter with a concussion. In came Steve Bono, who threw 15- and 4-yard touchdown passes to Rathman.

Meanwhile, Ricky Watters rushed for 100 yards on 13 carries in his NFL debut, and linebacker John Johnson returned an interception 56 yards for a score.

At San Diego, Kansas City spoiled Bobby Ross's coaching debut by thumping the Chargers 24-10. Rookie Dale Carter returned a punt 46 yards for one touchdown, and veteran cornerback Kevin Ross returned a deflected pass 99 yards for another. ☆

One-Man James Gang

The game was decided early, but no one left.

On a day when two-time AFC champion Buffalo overpowered the Rams 40-7, Thurman Thomas ran for 103 yards and 3 touchdowns and caught a pass from Jim Kelly for a fourth score.

Safety Henry Jones and cornerback Nate Odomes each intercepted 2 passes by Jim Everett. Defensive end Bruce Smith, healthy again, had 2 sacks and 2 pass deflections.

But as time ticked away in the fourth quarter, the 79,000 Bills fans refused to head for the parking lot. All eyes were on wide receiver James Lofton.

Buffalo's James Lofton celebrated after breaking Steve Largent's NFL record for receiving yardage.

The 36-year-old Lofton began the game with 13,035 receiving yards, 54 behind Steve Largent's NFL-record 13,089. With a career average of 18.7 yards per catch, Lofton was capable of getting 54 yards on a single reception.

But going into the fourth quarter, he had just 1 catch for 5 yards. Praying he wouldn't get hurt, head coach Marv Levy decided to leave his 15-year veteran in the game with the reserves to go for Largent's mark. In week 2, the Bills would be on the road.

With backup quarterback Frank Reich targeting him on 9 of the last 16 plays, Lofton caught 5 more passes and ended the day with 6 catches, 56 yards, and a record 13,091 yards in his career. Lofton also became the fourth NFL player to surpass 700 receptions, finishing with 705.

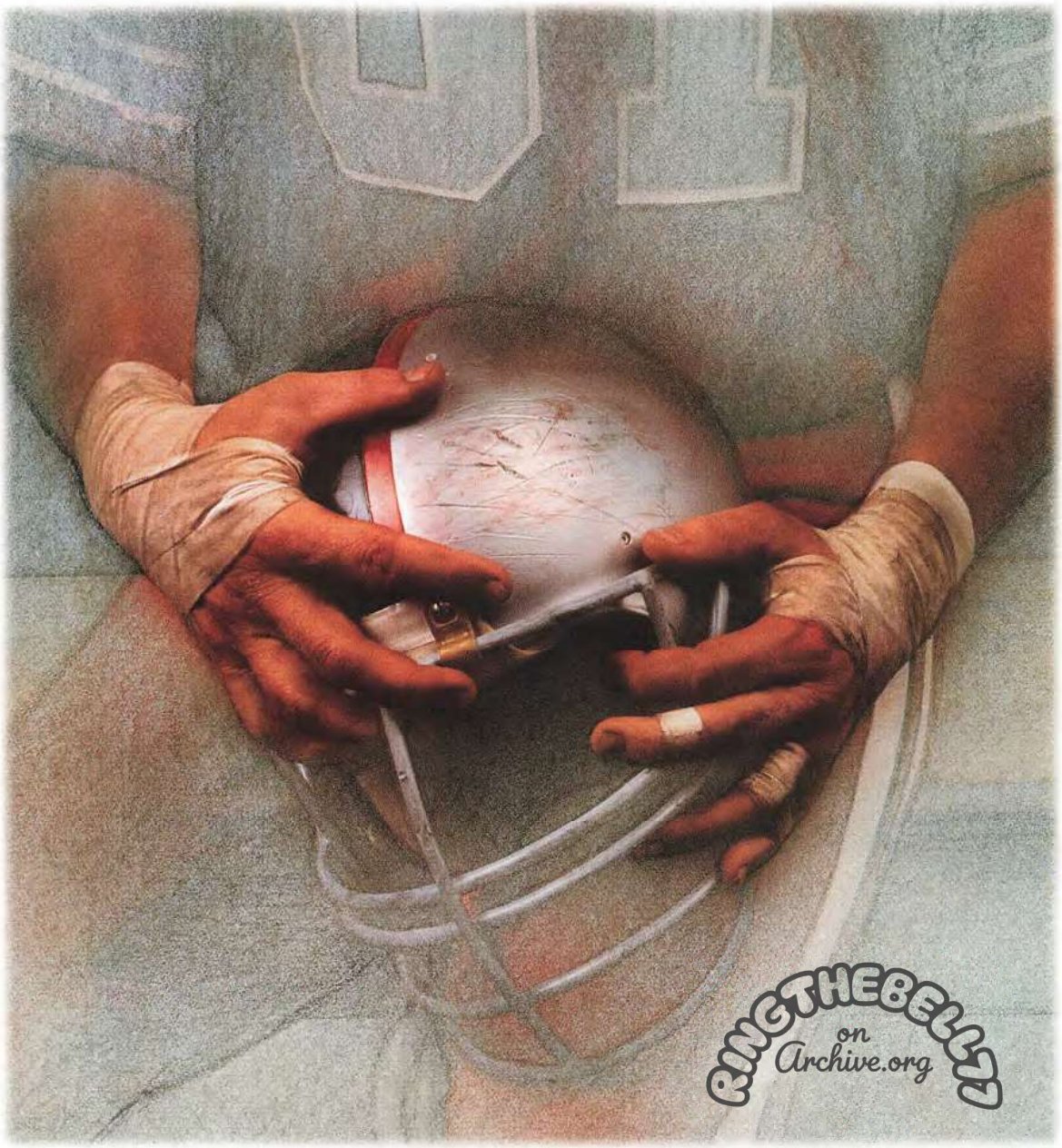
As he's gotten older, Lofton has begun to appreciate records.

"Now records are very important," he said. "I mean, it's nice. But the face of the game is changing. Teams are passing the ball more. You look at guys like Jerry Rice, Andre Reed, Andre Rison, Al Toon—guys who catch a lot of passes. My records will be passed. But it's nice to have them for a day."

In 1991, the ageless Lofton caught 57 passes for 1,072 yards and 8 touchdowns. So, record or not, he wasn't thinking of retiring.

"I think I've still got a couple of years," he said.

Pete J Groh



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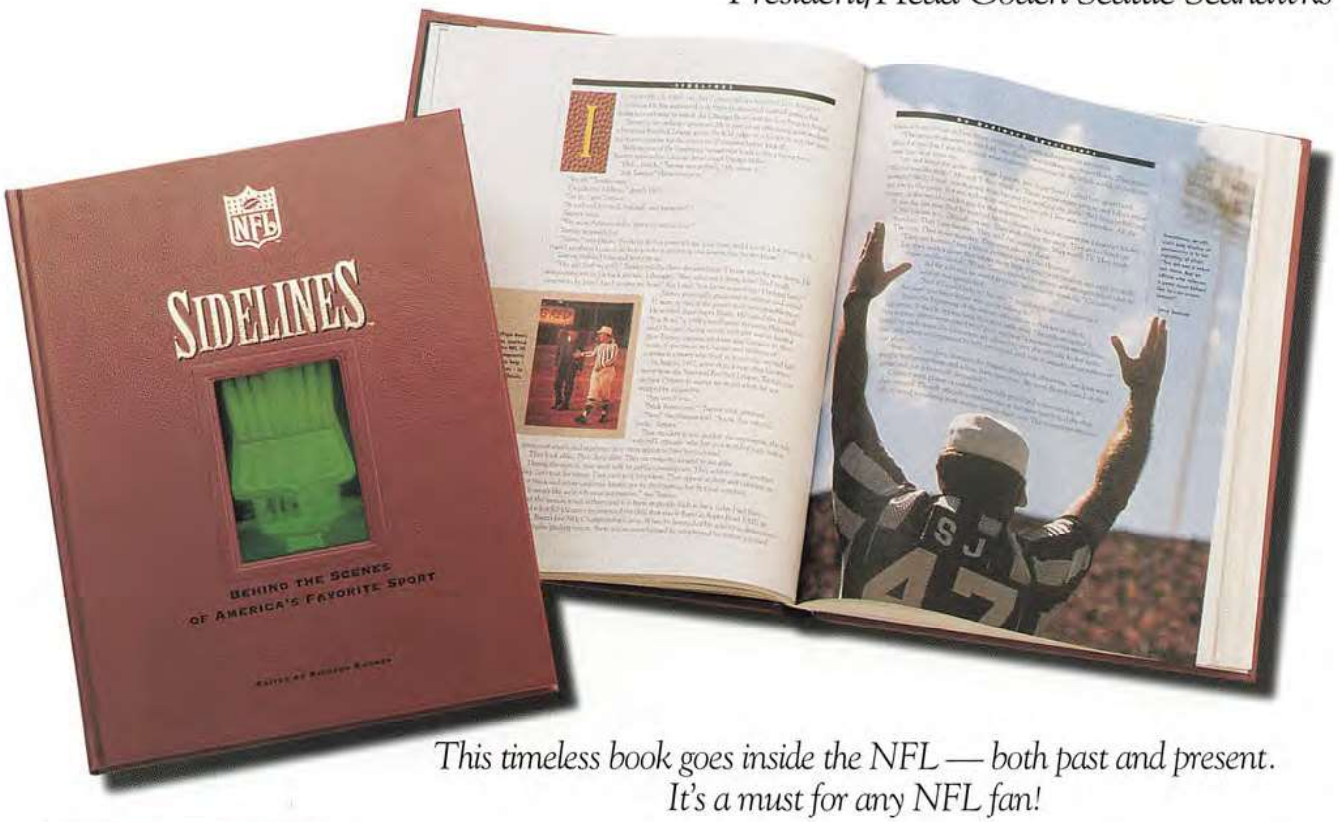
— *Tom Flores*
President/Head Coach Seattle Seahawks



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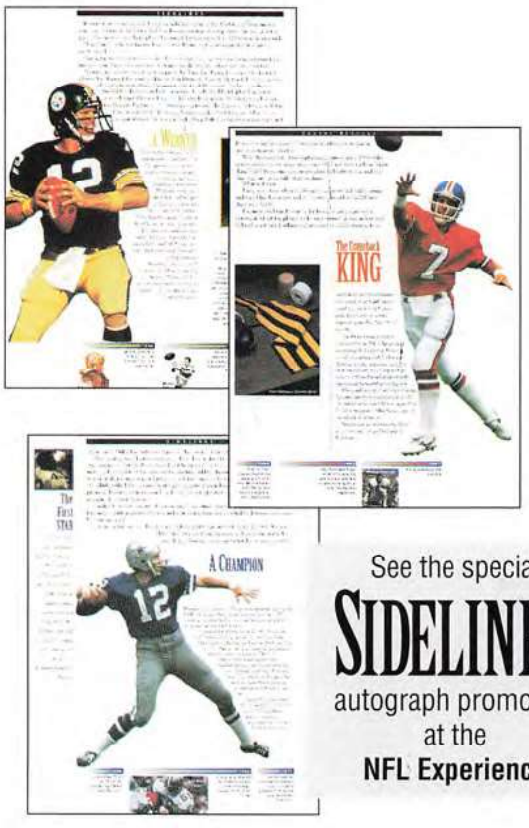

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Team NFL

WEEK 2

Bills Outscore 49ers 34-31 as Defenses Reel; Several New Coaches Continue Impressive Starts

SEPTEMBER 13

It was a bad day to be a defensive player in the NFL.

"It seemed like both offenses were going downhill the whole game," Buffalo tight end Pete Metzelaars said. "It was a crazy game with a lot of big plays."

The big plays added up to 1,086 yards as fast-starting Buffalo outscored the 49ers 34-31 in what was billed by some as a preview of Super Bowl XXVII.

Scott Cunningham

Desmond Howard of Washington raced 55 yards to score, after catching a lateral on a punt return.

In winning, Buffalo became one of eight teams to start the season 2-0, while the 49ers had their seven-game regular-season winning streak snapped. For the Bills, losers in the last two Super Bowls, beating a top NFC team was very important.

"We had a lot to prove to ourselves," Buffalo quarterback Jim Kelly said.

Kelly proved it with his right arm, passing for 403 yards and 3 touchdowns, including 53- and 24-yard strikes to Metzelaars. He had to keep throwing, too, because San Francisco's Steve Young countered with 449 yards and 3 touchdowns, including 7- and 54-yard scores to John Taylor.

The statisticians went crazy. The 49ers gained 598 yards, the Bills 488, and their total yardage was the fourth highest in NFL history. There were four 100-yard pass receivers, led by San Francisco's Mike Sherrard (159 yards) and Buffalo's Andre Reed (144). On the other hand, there were no punts.

Buffalo's Thurman Thomas, who had 179 yards from scrimmage, scored the winning touchdown on an 11-yard run with 3:04 left, finishing a 72-yard drive. But the game wasn't decided until San Francisco's Mike Cofer missed a 47-yard field-goal attempt with 54 seconds to play.

Three of the NFL's other 2-0 teams were big surprises—Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, and Tampa Bay, led by new coaches Dave Shula, Bill Cowher, and Sam Wyche, respectively. The other four 2-0 teams were old reliables Dallas, Denver, Kansas City, and Philadelphia.

In Giants Stadium, the Cowboys hung on to beat New York 34-28, after blowing most of a 34-point lead. It was Dallas's seventh consecutive regular-season victory.

Cowboys linebacker Ken Norton helped build the 34-0 lead by blocking a punt that safety Robert Williams carried 3 yards into the end zone for a touchdown. It was Dallas's sixth blocked punt in the last 12 regular-season and playoff games.

But the Giants retaliated with 28 consecutive points. Phil Simms led four successive touchdown drives and threw scoring passes to three different receivers. On their fifth series, the Giants were forced to punt, and the Cowboys ran out the clock.

"I'm just glad to be out of here," Dallas running back Emmitt Smith said.

The Miami Dolphins felt the same way about Cleveland after pulling out a 27-23 victory in the final seconds on Monday night. The Dolphins, who breezed to a 20-3 fourth-quarter lead, suddenly found themselves behind 23-20 with 1:18 left.

The Browns had scored 20 unanswered points on linebacker David Brandon's 32-yard fumble return for a touchdown sandwiched between Bernie Kosar's touchdown passes to Michael Jackson and Mark Bavaro.

The courageous Kosar led the comeback despite suffering a broken right ankle (a hairline fracture) in the first half, an injury he thought was a sprain. The Browns said he would be out at least six weeks.

"When you think about the way he moved, the way he exposed himself to further injury, and the way he played in the fourth quarter, you can have nothing but respect for this special young man," said Browns owner Art Modell.

After Kosar's second touchdown pass, Dan Marino, who passed for 322 yards, retaliated by leading an 84-yard drive to the winning touchdown. Mark Higgs scored on a 1-yard dive with seven seconds left.

While Don Shula was winning in Cleve-

Players of the Week

AFC OFFENSE—**Jim Kelly** passed for 403 yards and 3 touchdowns to rally Buffalo to a 34-31 victory over the 49ers.

Dave Stock

Kelly dazzled the 49ers.

AFC DEFENSE—Cornerback **Rod Woodson** had 8 tackles, a sack, a forced fumble, 2 passes defensed and a blocked field goal as the Steelers stopped the Jets 27-10.

NFC OFFENSE—**Vinny Testaverde** passed for 363 yards and 2 touchdowns and ran 2 yards for another in Tampa Bay's 31-3 rout of Green Bay. Testaverde completed 22 of 25 attempts (88 percent), barely missing the NFL record for accuracy (90.9 percent).

NFC DEFENSE—Cornerback **Todd Lyght** intercepted 2 passes, made 9 tackles, and broke up another pass as the Rams blanked New England 14-0 to snap their 11-game regular-season losing streak.

Gerald Gallegos

Lyght had 2 interceptions.

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	2	0	0
Miami	1	0	0
Indianapolis	1	1	0
New England	0	1	0
N.Y. Jets	0	2	0
AFC Central			
Cincinnati	2	0	0
Pittsburgh	2	0	0
Houston	1	1	0
Cleveland	0	2	0
AFC West			
Denver	2	0	0
Kansas City	2	0	0
L.A. Raiders	0	2	0
San Diego	0	2	0
Seattle	0	2	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	2	0	0
Philadelphia	2	0	0
Washington	1	1	0
N.Y. Giants	0	2	0
Phoenix	0	2	0
NFC Central			
Tampa Bay	2	0	0
Chicago	1	1	0
Detroit	1	1	0
Minnesota	1	1	0
Green Bay	0	2	0
NFC West			
Atlanta	1	1	0
L.A. Rams	1	1	0
New Orleans	1	1	0
San Francisco	1	1	0

Scores

AFC

Cincinnati 24, L.A. Raiders 21 (OT)
Denver 21, San Diego 13
Houston 20, Indianapolis 10
Kansas City 26, Seattle 7
Miami 27, Cleveland 23
Pittsburgh 27, N.Y. Jets 10

NFC

Dallas 34, N.Y. Giants 28
Detroit 31, Minnesota 17
New Orleans 28, Chicago 6
Philadelphia 31, Phoenix 14
Tampa Bay 31, Green Bay 3
Washington 24, Atlanta 17

Interconference

Buffalo 34, San Francisco 31
L.A. Rams 14, New England 0

Marv Rubin

Quote: Denver tight end **Reggie Johnson**, discussing his 34-yard kickoff return against San Diego:
"I've been hearing that I looked like Barry Sanders when the play started, and Colonel Sanders when the play ended."

land, his 33-year-old son Dave continued his fast start at Cincinnati. The surprising Bengals edged the Raiders 24-21 on Jim Breech's 34-yard field goal early in overtime.

The Raiders, who lost their opener to Denver in the last minute, had dropped their last six regular-season and playoff games.

Breech's winning kick was set up by a fumble on the overtime kickoff, which occurred when L.A. returner Dan Land was hit by his own teammate, Sam Graddy, who was trying to block for him. The ball popped free and Cincinnati cornerback Antoine Bennett recovered at the L.A. 21.

The Raiders' Jay Schroeder passed for 380 yards, including 33- and 37-yard scoring strikes to Tim Brown and Graddy.

Tony Tomsic

Linebacker Ken Norton blocked this punt by Sean Landeta to help Dallas get off to a 34-0 lead on the Giants. But the Cowboys had to hang on to win 34-28.

In a weekend of wild games, nothing matched the second quarter at Washington. The Redskins and Falcons combined for 35 points, 21 by Washington, in a 24-17 victory.

At one point, the teams scored two touchdowns in 18 seconds. Washington was ahead 7-0 when the Redskins' Brian Mitchell caught a punt, ran three yards, and threw an overhand lateral across the field to rookie Desmond Howard. The Heisman Trophy winner from Michigan caught the ball and raced 55 yards for a touchdown.

On the next kickoff, Atlanta's Deion Sanders, playing his first game after checking in from baseball's Atlanta Braves, touched the ball for the first time this season—and carried it 99 yards for another touchdown.

The game settled down in the second half, but the Redskins didn't wrap it up until linebacker Kurt Gouveia made a tumbling end-zone interception with 3:41 left.

It was a good news/bad news day for Washington, however. Pro Bowl cornerback Darrell Green suffered a broken arm, and doctors said he might be lost for the season.

In Pittsburgh, the Steelers were off to a 2-0 start, their first since 1982, after their 27-10 victory over the Jets. Barry Foster lost 3 fumbles, but when he held onto the ball, he rushed for 190 yards, scoring on 23- and 54-yard runs.

The Steelers' defense, which intercepted 5 passes in the opener, got 4 more, including safety Larry Griffin's 65-yard return for a touchdown.

The Eagles also were off to a 2-0 start, after riding the passing of Randall Cunningham and running of Herschel Walker to a 31-14 victory over Phoenix. It was the Cardinals' tenth consecutive regular-season defeat, and they also lost quarterback Timm Rosenbach for a month with a separated shoulder.

Cunningham completed 17 of 22 passes for 3 touchdowns, including 17- and 71-yard scoring passes to Fred Barnett. Walker rushed for 115 yards, his second consecutive 100-yard game, and Barnett caught 8 passes for 193 yards.

Defensive end Clyde Simmons had 3 of the Eagles' 6 sacks, while end Reggie White scored on a 37-yard fumble return.

In New Orleans, the Saints trailed the Bears 6-0 at halftime as Bobby Hebert was 3-for-14 passing. In the second half Hebert hit 10 of 11, including 52- and 72-yard scoring bombs to Eric Martin and Wesley Carroll. The Saints won 28-6. ☆

Motor City Gray Matter

Early in the first quarter of a scoreless tie, the Minnesota Vikings punted, which was their first mistake. Kicking a returnable ball to Mel Gray was their second.

Gray, as dangerous in his own way as Detroit teammate Barry Sanders, brought back the kick 58 yards for a touchdown. The Lions were off to a 31-17 victory, their eleventh in a row at home.

"Any time you run for a touchdown on a return, it takes the enthusiasm out of the other team," Gray said later.

He should know. His run against the Vikings was the fourth kick return for a touchdown in his NFL career, including a 78-yard punt return that beat the Packers in 1991.

Mel Gray earning his living.

After Gray ignited the Lions against Minnesota, cornerback Melvin Jenkins returned a blocked field goal 56 yards for a touchdown, and nose tackle Jerry Ball returned a fumble 21 yards for another.

In his ninth pro football season—seven in the NFL and two in the USFL—Gray shows no signs of slowing down. In 1991, he became the first player in NFL history to lead the league in both kickoff-return average (25.8) and punt-return average (15.4) in the same season.

But it's a tough way to make a living.

"I'd still rather be playing another position, because this is so dangerous," said the part-time wide receiver. "Returning punts and kickoffs takes more courage than almost any position."

Of the two return jobs, the 5-9, 162-pound Gray said that fielding punts is harder.

"There's more pressure returning punts," he said. "It takes more concentration and more ability to catch the ball, and you have to be totally focused. That ball is coming downfield all kinds of ways, and the guys coming down are trying to take your head off. You have to have a lot of mental toughness...a lot of mental toughness."

Betsy Peabody Rowe

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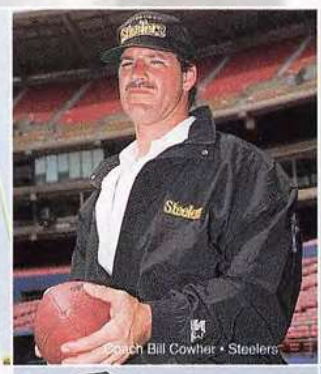
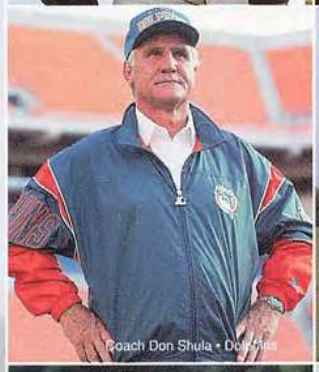
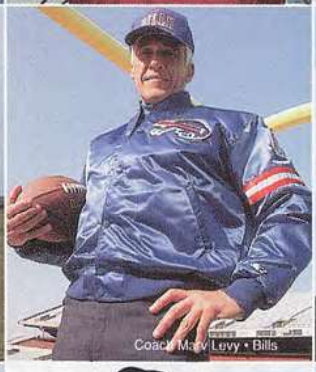

Coach Bill Cowher • Steelers

Coach Joe Gibbs • Redskins

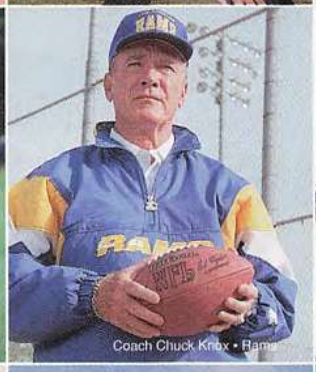

Coach Don Shula • Dolphins

Coach Jerry Glanville • Falcons


Coach Marv Levy • Bills

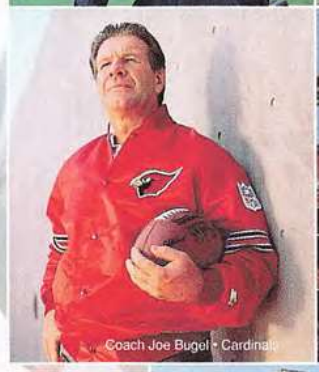
Coach David Shula • Bengals

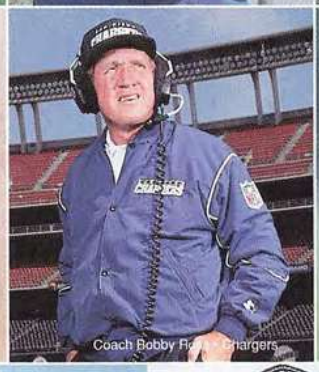
Coach Mike Ditka • Bears


Coach Chuck Knox • Rams

Coach Bruce Coslet

Coach Tom Flores • Seahawks


Coach Joe Bugel • Cardinals


Coach Bobby Ross • Chargers

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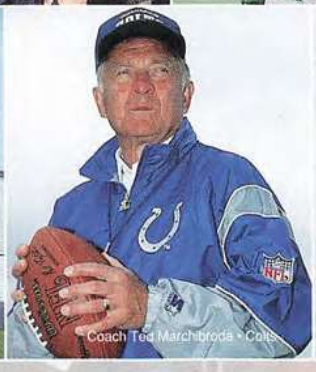
Coach Dick MacPherson • Patriots

Coach Mike Holmgren • Packers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WEEK 3

Eagles Overwhelm Broncos; Cowboys Stay Unbeaten; So Do Bills, Dolphins, and Surprising Steelers

SEPTEMBER 20

John Elway shook his head. "We knew coming in they had a great defense," the Denver quarterback said of the Philadelphia Eagles. "But they just manhandled us. It was an old-fashioned butt kicking, and they did the kicking."

The fast-starting Eagles not only gave the boot to the previously unbeaten Broncos, they shut them out 30-0, holding Denver to just 4 first downs, 82 yards, and 40 plays. The Broncos were 0-for-11 on third-down conversions.

In running their record to 3-0, the Eagles kept pace with division rival Dallas, which beat Phoenix 31-20. The Eagles and Cowboys were the only unbeaten teams left in the NFC. In the AFC, only Buffalo and surprising Pittsburgh (both 3-0), and Miami (2-0) had not lost.

After three weeks, the Eagles led the NFL in defense, just as they did in 1991, despite the offseason death of Pro Bowl defensive tackle Jerome Brown in a car accident.

"This win makes a big statement," defensive end Reggie White said. "A lot of teams don't want to be playing us."

That also fit the Eagles' offense.

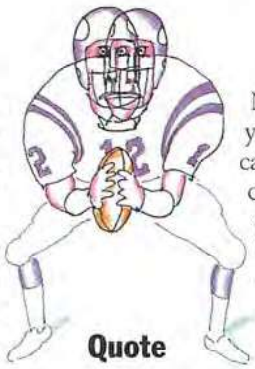
Against Denver, the Eagles controlled the ball for more than 39 minutes as Randall Cunningham threw for 3 touchdowns, including passes of 24 and 49 yards to Calvin Williams and 34 yards to Fred Barnett. In three games, Cunningham had 8 touchdown passes, no interceptions, a dazzling completion percentage of 73.6, and an almost-off-the-charts rating of 141.2.

James D. Smith

Michael Irvin caught 3 touchdown passes, including this one for 41 yards, as the Cowboys defeated the Cardinals 31-20.

In Texas, the Cowboys drove 93, 80, and 90 yards for their first 3 touchdowns, and Phoenix never caught up. The Cardinals never caught Michael Irvin, either.

The Cowboys' wide receiver, who led the NFL in receiving yards in 1991, caught 8 passes for a career-high 210 yards and 3 touchdowns. He teamed with Troy Aikman on 87-, 41-, and 4-yard scoring plays.



Marv Rubin

Irvin didn't wait long. Sixty-one seconds into the game he had a touchdown.

Throwing from his 13, Aikman hit Irvin at the 22, where he broke a tackle by cornerback Lorenzo Lynch and sprinted down the left sideline to score.

"Mike just kept getting open," Aikman said. "The eighty-seven-yarder was something."

Emmitt Smith balanced the Dallas attack by rushing for 112 yards and a touchdown. The Cardinals fought back behind the passing of Chris Chandler, who gained 383 yards, but it wasn't enough.

Dallas now has won eight regular-season games in a row, while Phoenix has lost 11 straight.

Buffalo, the NFL scoring leader, showed no signs of slowing down, either, racing away from the Colts 38-0.

Jim Kelly lobbed 1-yard touchdown passes to both tight end Pete Metzelaars and rookie tackle John Fina, while safety Henry Jones scored on 23- and 82-yard interception returns.

The Saints and Falcons got together for a defensive slugfest in Atlanta's new Georgia Dome, and when the turf had cleared, New Orleans had won 10-7.

The Falcons' Chris Miller and the Saints' Bobby Hebert exchanged touchdown passes, before Hebert drove New Orleans 44 yards near the end of the game to set up Morten Andersen for the game-winning field goal. From 47 yards out, Andersen made it with 1:51 left.

"I'm a glutton for those types of kicks," Andersen said.

Houston's Al Del Greco

Quote

Quarterback **Sean Salisbury**, after leading the Vikings to a 26-20 victory over Tampa Bay in the Metrodome, despite being knocked woozy in the fourth quarter:

"I was in left field, thinking I was in right field."

Players of the Week

AFC OFFENSE—**Eric Metcalf** caught 4-, 69-, and 63-yard touchdown passes from Todd Philcox and also scored on a 6-yard run to lead Cleveland past the Raiders 28-16.

AFC DEFENSE—Defensive tackle **Cortez Kennedy** had 7 tackles, including 2½ sacks and 2 tackles for losses, and forced 2 fumbles as Seattle beat New England 10-6. It was Tom Flores's first victory as Seahawks head coach.

Kevin Terrell

The Raiders couldn't catch Metcalf.

Bruce Dierdorff

Holland intercepted 2 passes.

NFC OFFENSE—**Michael Irvin** caught 87-, 41-, and 4-yard touchdown passes from Troy Aikman to help Dallas beat Phoenix 31-20.

NFC DEFENSE—Linebacker **Johnny Holland** made 14 tackles, forced a fumble to break up a drive, and intercepted 2 passes in Green Bay's 24-23 victory over Cincinnati.

kicked well under pressure, too, as he and the Oilers defeated the previously unbeaten Chiefs 23-20 in overtime.

Del Greco's 39-yard field goal, 1:55 into overtime, won the game, but he made 3 field goals in all, including a career-best 54-yarder on the last play of the first half.

"I'm playing on a great team and having a lot of fun," Del Greco said.

The winning kick was set up by cornerback Cris Dishman and defensive tackle Doug Smith. Dishman jarred Chiefs' receiver J.J. Birden loose from the ball, and Smith recovered at the Kansas City 23.

The Chiefs sent the game into overtime when Dave Krieg directed an 85-yard, 14-play drive, which ended in Todd McNair's 4-yard touchdown run with 23 seconds left.

Jerry Liebman

Tim Harris (92) had 3 of the 49ers' 4 sacks of Ken O'Brien in San Francisco's 31-14 victory.

In Washington, the Redskins threw a defensive blanket over Detroit's Barry Sanders, controlled the ball for nearly 38 minutes, and hung on to make it 16 in a row over the Lions 13-10.

"This was very disappointing," Detroit coach Wayne Fontes said. "We played so hard."

The Redskins held the Lions to 8 first downs, limited Sanders to 34 yards on 14 carries, and got 120 rushing yards and a touchdown from Earnest Byner. Detroit stayed in the game by intercepting Mark Rypien 3 times, while Rodney Peete fired a 67-yard touchdown pass to Willie Green in the fourth quarter to shave the lead to 13-10. With 1:42 left, Detroit rookie Jason Hanson missed a 49-yard field goal.

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	3	0	0
Miami	2	0	0
Indianapolis	1	2	0
New England	0	2	0
N.Y. Jets	0	3	0
AFC Central			
Pittsburgh	3	0	0
Cincinnati	2	1	0
Houston	2	1	0
Cleveland	1	2	0
AFC West			
Denver	2	1	0
Kansas City	2	1	0
Seattle	1	2	0
L.A. Raiders	0	3	0
San Diego	0	3	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	3	0	0
Philadelphia	3	0	0
Washington	2	1	0
N.Y. Giants	1	2	0
Phoenix	0	3	0
NFC Central			
Minnesota	2	1	0
Tampa Bay	2	1	0
Chicago	1	2	0
Detroit	1	2	0
Green Bay	1	2	0
NFC West			
New Orleans	2	1	0
San Francisco	2	1	0
Atlanta	1	2	0
L.A. Rams	1	2	0

Scores

AFC
Buffalo 38, Indianapolis 0
Cleveland 28, L.A. Raiders 16
Houston 23, Kansas City 20
Pittsburgh 23, San Diego 6
Seattle 10, New England 6

NFC
Dallas 31, Phoenix 20
Minnesota 26, Tampa 20
New Orleans 10, Atlanta 7
N.Y. Giants 27, Chicago 14
Washington 13, Detroit 10

Interconference
Green Bay 24, Cincinnati 23
Miami 26, L.A. Rams 10
Philadelphia 30, Denver 0
San Francisco 31, N.Y. Jets 14

The 49ers were in a happy rut. On opening day, they routed the Giants 31-14 in Giants Stadium. Two weeks later, they returned to the same field and trounced the Jets by the same score.

Steve Young threw touchdown passes to Jerry Rice and tight end Jamie Williams, and carried 4 times for 50 yards (scoring on a 10-yard run). Linebacker Tim Harris had 3 of the 49ers' 4 sacks of Ken O'Brien.

Still, there was sadness in victory when San Francisco lost starting wide receiver John Taylor for eight weeks with a broken leg, and top backup defensive end Larry Roberts probably for the season with a knee injury.

In Green Bay, new Packers coach Mike Holmgren got his first victory—but it was enough to turn his hair gray.

The Packers trailed Cincinnati 17-3 after three quarters and still were behind 23-17 as time was running out. But second-year quarterback Brett Favre, who had replaced injured Don Majkowski, took Green Bay on a 54-second drive covering 92 yards to win 24-23.

Favre had a hand in both winning plays, throwing a 35-yard touchdown pass to Kitrick Taylor with 13 seconds left, and holding for Chris Jacke's winning conversion.

It was the first NFL touchdown catch for Taylor, a fifth-year wide receiver who caught the game-tying pass in full stride just across the goal line. He was in the game only because Sterling Sharpe had been injured earlier on the drive.

"I was scared I had thrown it halfway up in the seats," Favre said.

It was a game of big plays, including rookie Carl Pickens's 95-yard punt return for a Cincinnati touchdown, and rookie Terrell Buckley's 58-yard punt return for a Green Bay touchdown. ☆

Cowher-ing Inferno

Three weeks into the season, there were signs all over Pittsburgh that read simply: "COWHER POWER."

That's Cowher, as in Bill Cowher, the Steelers' dynamic, new, 35-year-old coach, who had his club off to a surprising 3-0 start. He was the first rookie head coach in the club's 60-year history to start 3-0.

"Everybody's excited on this team, thanks to Bill," said linebacker Jerrol Williams, after Pittsburgh's 23-6 victory over San Diego, its third in a row. "He's turned us loose and let us play."

"We're a different team," said linebacker Greg Lloyd. "We're out there yelling and screaming and having a lot of fun."

Rob Brown

Bill Cowher and the Steelers were 3-0.

For the Steelers, who were used to the stoic Chuck Noll, winner of four Super Bowls but just two playoff games in the last 12 years, Cowher was an exciting change.

He ran up and down the sideline pumping his fists. He hugged players. He exhorted them. He believed in them.

Against Houston on opening day, the Steelers trailed 14-0 in the first quarter when Cowher called for a fake punt on fourth-and-15 at the Oilers' 45. Punter Mark Royals completed a 44-yard pass to set up the team's first touchdown.

Leading 29-24 with two minutes left, Cowher called a reverse on third-and-5 at his own 36. Dwight Stone ran 18 yards for a first down, and the Steelers ran out the clock.

A week later against the Jets, running back Barry Foster lost 3 fumbles, but Cowher stuck with him. Foster ran for 190 yards and 2 touchdowns, and Pittsburgh won again.

"On the one hand, he's been patient with the whole team," Foster said. "At the same time, he's got everybody fired up."

The Steelers' fired-up defense led the NFL with 12 interceptions and 15 total takeaways. The fired-up offense, which ranked twentieth in the league in 1991, ranked ninth.

"We're winning one play at a time," Cowher said. "If you do that, anything can happen."

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WEEK 4

Revitalized Tampa Bay Tied for First in NFC Central, Where Four of Five Teams Win; Raiders Fall to 0-4

SEPTEMBER 27

James Whitaker

Barry Word wore down the Raiders by rushing for 125 yards as Kansas City won 27-7. Los Angeles fell to 0-4.

With 55 seconds remaining, quarterback Vinny Testaverde faked a first-down handoff to Gary Anderson, who was running right. The Lions went after Anderson.

However, no one worried about tight end Ron Hall. After throwing a block for Anderson, Hall regained his footing and drifted across the middle of the field. He was wide open when Testaverde rolled left and hit him with a 14-yard touchdown pass.

And just like that, Tampa Bay had rallied to edge Detroit 27-23 and snap a 15-game road losing streak.

The Buccaneers, who had only three winning seasons in their first 16—and none since 1982—were now 3-1 and tied for first place in the NFC Central Division.

"We get to beat on our chests for one more week," new coach Sam Wyche bubbled in the locker room. "This will make for one rambunctious trip home."

The Buccaneers flew home tied for first place with Minnesota, a team also directed by a new coach, Dennis Green. The Vikings beat Cincinnati 42-7.

It was a big weekend for two other NFC Central teams, too. The Packers, coached by Mike Holmgren, yet another newcomer, won their second game in a row by surprising unbeaten Pittsburgh 17-3. And Chicago outscored Atlanta 41-31.

Detroit, which won the division in 1991, owned an 11-game winning streak at home when it faced Tampa Bay. But, for the third time in four weeks, the Lions lost a fourth-quarter lead.

Betsy Peabody Rowe

Tampa Bay's Santana Dotson shocked Detroit with a 42-yard fumble return for a touchdown.

Detroit led 16-13 midway through the fourth quarter, when Tampa Bay rookie defensive tackle Santana Dotson recovered a botched handoff between Rodney Peete and Barry Sanders (the ball bounced off Sanders's hip), and then burst from a crowd of players and lumbered 42 yards for a touchdown.

Trailing 20-16, the Lions regained the lead in just 18 seconds–the elapsed time of the Buccaneers' kickoff and Mel Gray's 89-yard return for a touchdown.

On the very next series, Testaverde took

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	4	0	0	Dallas	3	0	0
Miami	3	0	0	Philadelphia	3	0	0
Indianapolis	1	2	0	Washington	2	1	0
New England	0	3	0	N.Y. Giants	1	2	0
N.Y. Jets	0	4	0	Phoenix	0	3	0
AFC Central				**NFC Central**			
Houston	3	1	0	Minnesota	3	1	0
Pittsburgh	3	1	0	Tampa Bay	3	1	0
Cincinnati	2	2	0	Chicago	2	2	0
Cleveland	1	3	0	Green Bay	2	2	0
AFC West				Detroit	1	3	0
Denver	3	1	0	**NFC West**			
Kansas City	3	1	0	San Francisco	3	1	0
Seattle	1	3	0	L.A. Rams	2	2	0
L.A. Raiders	0	4	0	New Orleans	2	2	0
San Diego	0	4	0	Atlanta	1	3	0

Scores

AFC

Buffalo 41, New England 7
Denver 12, Cleveland 0
Houston 27, San Diego 0
Kansas City 27, L.A. Raiders 7
Miami 19, Seattle 17

NFC

Chicago 41, Atlanta 31
San Francisco 16, New Orleans 10
Tampa Bay 27, Detroit 23

Interconference

Green Bay 17, Pittsburgh 3
L.A. Rams 18, N.Y. Jets 10
Minnesota 42, Cincinnati 7

Who Won? You Did, Dan

Dolphins head coach Don Shula wasn't surprised by what happened—but he still marveled at it.

With 2:15 remaining in a hard-fought struggle in Seattle, Miami quarterback Dan Marino threw a 15-yard touchdown pass to Fred Banks to beat the Seahawks 19-17 and keep the Dolphins unbeaten after three games.

This almost was old news. It was the twentieth time in Marino's career that he had brought the Dolphins from behind in the fourth quarter to win a game. He beat Cleveland in this season's opener with an 84-yard drive in the final 1:15.

"It's just another great effort by a great, great player," Shula said of the victory in Seattle. "He struggled earlier, but when we had to have it, he gave it to us."

What made this particular comeback unique was that Marino had suffered a concussion four plays before throwing the winning touchdown pass.

After an incomplete pass from the 34, he was hammered by linebacker Rufus Porter and defensive end Jeff Bryant, then walked off the field in a daze.

In came backup quarterback Scott Mitchell, who kept the 80-yard drive alive by completing a flanker screen to Tony Martin on third-and-10. Martin raced 18 yards to the Seahawks' 16.

Marino kept Miami unbeaten.

Dave Cross

Marino, his head cleared, returned on the next play, and, on third-and-9, completed the winning touchdown pass.

"I expected him to come back; he's a tough guy," Seattle defensive end Tony Woods said. "I've seen him do that too many times. He's a leader. He never gives up."

"He's so tough," Mitchell said, "that you could cut off his legs and he'd still play."

Tough he is. The 31-year-old Marino had not missed a non-strike game since the end of the 1983 season. He had started 127 games in a row, almost doubling the next-best current total by a quarterback (68) compiled by Jim Everett of the Rams.

There was a footnote to Marino's winning touchdown pass. Shortly after throwing it, he temporarily lost his memory.

"Who won the game?" he asked in the locker room. Informed of the outcome, he asked, "How did we win?"

Tampa Bay 80 yards in 14 plays to win the game—just barely.

Although Hall scored with 49 seconds left, the game wasn't over. Peete, who passed for 323 yards, drove the Lions to the Buccaneers' 15, from where, on the game's final play, he completed a pass to Brett Perriman. Perriman, straining to get out of bounds, was tackled on the 3 by cornerback Milton Mack.

"With all the confidence Sam [Wyche] showed in us, we just kept fighting," Testaverde said. "We never got down."

The Vikings never got down, either, as they scored on five of their first seven series for a 35-0 lead in their rout of the Bengals. Rich Gannon passed for 318 yards and 4 touchdowns, including 15- and 30-yarders to Cris Carter.

Gannon, who played with a cracked bone in his throwing hand, enjoyed the whole day.

"Sometimes it seems like everything is so clear," he said. "Today was one of those days. Even when I got sacked, I'd get up and say, 'Man, I don't even hurt.'"

Boomer Esiason was in pain, however. The Vikings sacked the Bengals' starting quarterback and backup Donald Hollas 5 times, while intercepting Esiason 4 times. Three of the interceptions were by safety Todd Scott. Terry Allen scored 3 times for Minnesota on a pair of short runs and a 15-yard pass from Gannon.

In Green Bay, backup quarterback Brett Favre led the Packers past Pittsburgh and won his second game in a row in relief of injured Don Majkowski.

Favre passed 76 yards to Sterling Sharpe and 8 yards to rookie Robert Brooks for touchdowns as both players beat Pro Bowl cornerback Rod Woodson. Woodson also muffed a punt, setting up the second touchdown.

"It was like a nightmare," Woodson said.

In Chicago, the Bears raced away to a 31-7 halftime lead and withstood a passing barrage by Chris Miller to beat Atlanta. Chicago's Neal Anderson scored on 49- and 14-yard runs and gained 154 yards rushing and receiving. Teammate Brad Muster gained 147 yards rushing and receiving and scored on a 14-yard run.

The Falcons, who lost their third in a row, went down fighting, as Miller passed for 351 yards and 4 touchdowns, including 3 scoring tosses to Andre Rison.

Bears coach Mike Ditka appreciated the victory, but not the lack of defense.

"I don't think this is the kind of football that will win you a lot of games," he said. "I'm a realist, not a phony. We've got to play much better on the defensive side and on special teams."

In New Orleans, the Saints and 49ers played tough defense down to the wire, as San Francisco won 16-10.

With 10 seconds remaining, 49ers cornerback Eric Davis intercepted a Bobby Hebert pass in the end zone, after Hebert had scrambled at the San Francisco 12-yard line. In all, the 49ers forced 5 turnovers, including a fumble by wide receiver Eric Martin, which was recovered by Davis at the San Francisco 24 with 3:50 left.

Meanwhile, Mike Cofer, who had made only 3 of 7 field-goal attempts in the first three weeks, hit 3 in a row. The Saints' Morten Andersen, usually deadly, missed from 37 yards.

San Francisco quarterback Steve Young passed for 187 yards and ran for 65, including a 26-yard dash to the Saints' 1 to set up his team's only touchdown.

In Kansas City, the Raiders fell to 0-4 for the first time since 1964 as they lost to the Chiefs 27-7. Including a playoff defeat by Kansas City in 1991, it was the Raiders' eighth successive loss.

"This is very disappointing," Raiders coach Art Shell said. "We're kind of low right now."

Eric Dickerson raced 40 yards for a touchdown to give Los Angeles a 7-0 lead in the second quarter. But the Chiefs pounded away on the ground with Barry Word (125 yards) and wore down the Raiders. Quarterback Dave Krieg ran 3 and 7 yards for touchdowns.

In Houston, Warren Moon ran for one touchdown and passed for another as the Oilers shut out the winless Chargers 27-0. Moon, with 175 passing yards, surpassed the 50,000-yard mark in his professional career (including 21,228 in the Canadian Football League).

Denver blanked Cleveland 12-0 on 4 David Treadwell field goals. Linebacker Michael Brooks and safety Dennis Smith each set up a field goal with an interception. ☆

Players of the Week

Cox stopped two Seattle drives.

AFC OFFENSE—**Jim Kelly** passed for 308 yards and 3 touchdowns, including one of 45 yards to Andre Reed and 29- and 22-yard passes to James Lofton, as unbeaten Buffalo routed New England 41-7.

AFC DEFENSE—Linebacker **Bryan Cox** had 3 tackles, including 2 sacks, and broke up two drives with an interception and a forced fumble as unbeaten Miami edged Seattle 19-17.

NFC OFFENSE—**Rich Gannon** passed for 318 yards and 4 touchdowns, including 15- and 30-yard tosses to Cris Carter, as the Vikings ripped Cincinnati 42-7.

NFC DEFENSE—Rookie tackle **Santana Dotson** had 5 tackles, including a sack, and returned a mid-air fumble 42 yards for a touchdown to help Tampa Bay beat Detroit 27-23.

Gannon bombed the Bengals.

George Gojkovich

Terry Thibeau

Cornerback Eric Davis (25) made a leaping interception in the end zone with 10 seconds left to save the 49ers.

Quote

Bears kicker Kevin Butler, responding to those who were surprised that he made 2 tackles on kickoff returns against Atlanta:

"My paycheck says I'm a football player."

Marv Rubin

Brian Spurlock

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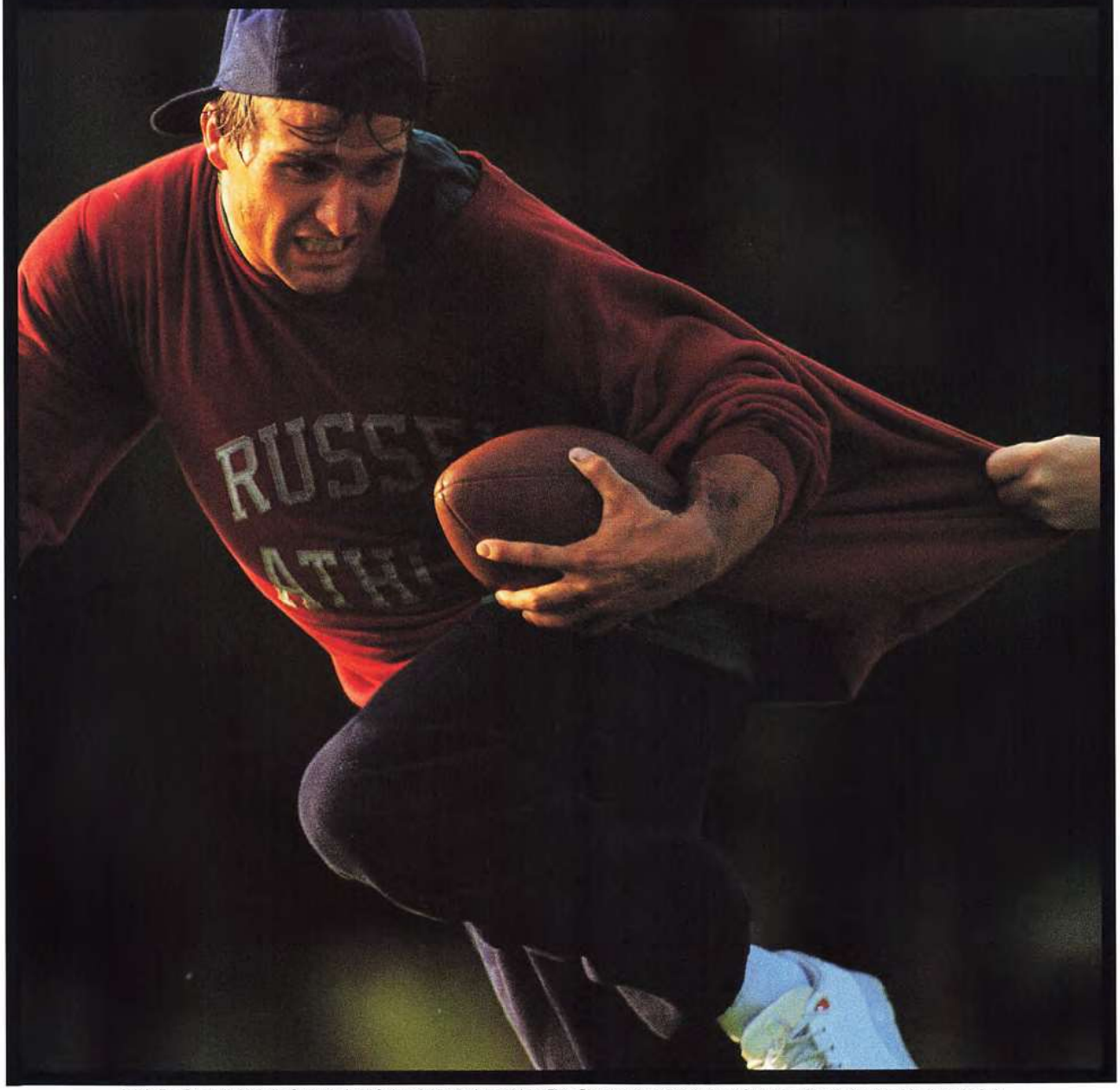

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WEEK 5

Eagles, Dolphins Easily Dispose of Top Rivals to Remain Undefeated; Cardinals Shock 'Skins, and Elway Beats Chiefs

OCTOBER 4

A few minutes after the unbeaten Philadelphia Eagles rolled past the Dallas Cowboys, Herschel Walker was looking ahead.

"Let's go 16-0," the Eagles' running back said. "That's the mission. That's the objective. That's what I want to try to help this team do."

At 4-0, the Eagles were a long way from 16-0, but it was hard not to be impressed when they manhandled the previously unbeaten Cowboys 31-7 on Monday night.

In another showdown of unbeaten teams on Sunday, Miami started fast and kept going to surprise Buffalo 37-10.

"We were soundly beaten by a team that played well," Buffalo coach Marv Levy said.

And so, on the first weekend of October, the NFL's list of unbeaten teams was reduced to two.

While the Eagles and Dolphins rolled on, several other teams rolled backward. Three 1991 playoff teams—Kansas City, Chicago, and Super Bowl-champion Washington—squandered large fourth-quarter leads.

On the other side of the coin, four of the league's five winless teams—the Cardinals, Raiders, Chargers, and Jets—won.

On this weekend full of surprises, Miami's one-sided win at Buffalo was one of the biggest. The unbeaten Bills had won 17 games in a row at home against AFC East teams, had beaten the Dolphins in 10 of their previous 11 meetings, and had defeated Miami six consecutive games in Rich Stadium.

One spectacular play by Miami safety Louis Oliver broke open the game.

The Bills trailed 24-10 late in the third quarter, and had driven to the Miami 5. But when Jim Kelly passed into the end zone, Oliver intercepted and streaked down the left sideline an NFL-record-tying 103 yards for the touchdown that suddenly made the score 31-10.

Miami safety Louis Oliver had 3 interceptions and returned this one 103 yards for a score.

Bob Rosato

"I've seen those routes for three years," Oliver said. "It's about time I started breaking on them."

In all, the pesky Oliver intercepted 3 Kelly passes, and cornerback J.B. Brown stole another. Those interceptions and a fumble recovery led to 24 Miami points.

Dan Marino, meanwhile, threw 3 touchdown passes, including one of 24 yards to former Eagles Pro Bowl tight end Keith Jackson. Jackson was playing his first game with Miami after signing as a free agent.

Jackson's former team did just fine, too. In beating Dallas, the Eagles' top-ranked defense set up 3 touchdowns with turnovers and turned away the Cowboys at the goal line with another takeaway.

Safety John Booty and linebacker Byron Evans had interceptions and linebacker William Thomas had a fumble recovery to set up touchdowns. Safety Wes Hopkins snuffed out a Dallas drive that reached the Eagles' 2 with an interception.

"Philadelphia is the most talented team in the league," Dallas coach Jimmy Johnson said.

The Eagles' offense had just 1 turnover, and Walker rushed for 86 yards and 2 touchdowns.

While the Dolphins and Eagles held on to their leads, the Redskins, Chiefs, and Bears did not.

Washington led Phoenix 24-6 after three quarters, but the Cardinals rallied to win 27-24. Kansas City was ahead of Denver 19-6, but the Broncos scored 2 touchdowns in the last 1:55 to win 20-19. The Bears led the Vikings 20-0, but Minnesota scored 3 fourth-quarter touchdowns to win 21-20. Their victories left the Broncos and Vikings in first place in their divisions.

"I'll remember this day," said Washington quarterback Mark Rypien, who threw

Herschel Walker scored on 9- and 16-yard runs as the Eagles pounded the Cowboys 31-7.

David Drapkin

Players of the Week

Elway broke the Chiefs' hearts.

AFC OFFENSE—**John Elway** passed for 311 yards and threw 2 touchdown passes in the final 1:55 to rally Denver to a 20-19 victory over Kansas City.

AFC DEFENSE—Safety **Louis Oliver** intercepted 3 passes, returning one an NFL-record-tying 103 yards for a touchdown, and made 2 solo tackles as unbeaten Miami blasted Buffalo 37-10.

NFC OFFENSE—**Herschel Walker** ran for 86 yards and scored twice as the unbeaten Eagles ripped Dallas 31-7.

NFC DEFENSE—Cornerback **Robert Massey** tied an NFL record by returning 2 passes for touchdowns (31 and 41 yards), and also made 4 solo tackles as Phoenix nipped Washington 27-24.

Massey ruined the Redskins.

Rob Brown

Paul Jasienski

2 interceptions that were returned for touchdowns by cornerback Robert Massey.

Washington was ahead by 18 points when Massey picked off a Rypien pass on the first play of the fourth quarter and took it back 31 yards for his first touchdown. Seven minutes later he did it again, racing 41 yards for a score.

Then the Cardinals' offense took over. Quarterback Chris Chandler directed the game-winning 84-yard touchdown drive, which ended with a 9-yard pass to running back Larry Centers with 41 seconds remaining. Washington's usually reliable Chip Lohmiller missed a 40-yard field-goal attempt on the final play of the game.

In Denver, after Nick Lowery kicked his fourth field goal with five minutes left, Kansas City was ahead 19-6 and apparently on the way to ending its nine-game losing streak in Mile High Stadium.

Aggie Skirball

Tim Brown 's leaping catch led to a 68-yard touchdown play for the Raiders.

But some curses die hard.

Denver's John Elway immediately put together an 80-yard touchdown drive, ending with his 25-yard pass to Mark Jackson that cut the lead to 19-13 with 1:55 left.

After rookie Dale Carter was tackled at his own 5 on the ensuing kickoff, Kansas City punted, and rookie Arthur Marshall returned the ball 28 yards to the Chiefs' 27. Three plays later, Elway threw a 12-yard pass to Vance Johnson for the touchdown that tied the score at 19-19 with 38 seconds left. David Treadwell's conversion gave Denver the victory.

It was the second time in five weeks Elway had rallied Denver to a last-minute victory.

In Minneapolis, the Bears were rolling along with a 20-0 lead when Minnesota safety Todd Scott intercepted a Jim Harbaugh pass and returned it 35 yards for a touchdown in the first minute of the fourth quarter.

The Bears collapsed, and the Vikings caught fire. Rich Gannon drove Minnesota 67 and 78 yards for 2 more touchdowns, the first on a 16-yard pass to Cris Carter and the second on a 1-yard run by Roger Craig that tied the score at 20-20 with 1:46 left. Fuad Reveiz kicked the winning conversion.

"I don't want to blow it out of proportion, but this is a big win," Gannon said.

The Raiders got a big victory, too, not only because they were 0-4, but because they had lost eight straight games dating back to 1991. Slumping Jeff Jaeger scored the winning points in a 13-10 victory over the Giants, hitting a 54-yard field goal with 7:15 left.

L.A.'s Tim Brown had tied the score at 10-10 in the third quarter when he made a leaping catch and turned Todd Marinovich's short pass into a 68-yard touchdown.

In San Diego, new coach Bobby Ross earned his first victory as the Chargers beat Seattle 17-6 on 67- and 5-yard touchdown passes from Stan Humphries to Anthony Miller.

The struggling Seahawks also lost starting quarterback Kelly Stouffer for a month with a dislocated left shoulder. ☆

Quote

Phoenix coach **Joe Bugel**, describing his team's locker room after its shocking 27-24 victory over Washington:

"Everyone was crying. I've never seen such happiness."

Marv Rubin

Steve Young's Elusive Feat

Rams rookie defensive tackle Sean Gilbert was shocked by his first encounter with Steve Young.

"He's truly fast," Gilbert said. "I mean, for a quarterback, he's got some tailback speed. And he's agile, too."

Gilbert had just watched Young direct the 49ers to 2 touchdowns and a field goal in the final 6:29 of an exciting 27-24 victory over the Rams. The quarterback scored the touchdowns on scrambles of 8 and 39 yards.

Greg Trott

Tackle Steve Wallace (74) celebrated with Steve Young.

On the 39-yard run, Young eluded six tacklers, including cornerback Robert Bailey, whom he dragged into the end zone.

"He's too big and strong to arm tackle," Rams safety Anthony Newman said. "You have to take his head off."

Steve Young always could run. Prior to 1992, he had rushed for 1,732 yards and 14 touchdowns and averaged 6.1 yards per carry in his NFL career. Five games into the 1992 season, he was averaging 9.9 per carry.

But there was another question about Young: Could he win? When Joe Montana missed the 1991 season with an elbow injury, Young led the NFL in passer rating in the 11 games he played (he missed five with a knee injury). But the 49ers' record in his 10 starts was 5-5.

So far this season, however, with Montana still out, Young and the 49ers were 4-1. And, against the Rams, the 30-year-old quarterback showed he had the ability to bounce back from adversity.

Early in the fourth quarter, he was intercepted by Bailey, who returned the ball 24 yards for the touchdown that gave the inspired Rams a 17-10 lead.

Booed by his own fans, Young responded by directing 49- and 52-yard touchdown drives and then the 77-yard march to Mike Cofer's 21-yard field goal that won the game with one second remaining.

The 49ers' quarterback completed 3 of 4 passes for 75 yards on the winning field-goal drive and 20 of 29 for the day.

"I think my first instinct now is to pass the ball, not run with it," Young said. "There always will be the opportunity for two or three big running plays in a game, but I'm of more value to the team throwing the ball than I am running with it."

But as 3 scrambles for 60 yards and 2 touchdowns will attest, it was nice to have his running, too.

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Miami	4	0	0
Buffalo	4	1	0
Indianapolis	2	2	0
N.Y. Jets	1	4	0
New England	0	4	0
AFC Central			
Houston	3	1	0
Pittsburgh	3	1	0
Cincinnati	2	2	0
Cleveland	1	3	0
AFC West			
Denver	4	1	0
Kansas City	3	2	0
L.A. Raiders	1	4	0
San Diego	1	4	0
Seattle	1	4	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Philadelphia	4	0	0
Dallas	3	1	0
Washington	2	2	0
N.Y. Giants	1	3	0
Phoenix	1	3	0
NFC Central			
Minnesota	4	1	0
Tampa Bay	3	2	0
Chicago	2	3	0
Green Bay	2	3	0
Detroit	1	4	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	4	1	0
New Orleans	3	2	0
Atlanta	2	3	0
L.A. Rams	2	3	0

Scores

AFC
Denver 20, Kansas City 19
Miami 37, Buffalo 10
N.Y. Jets 30, New England 21
San Diego 17, Seattle 6
NFC
Atlanta 24, Green Bay 10
Minnesota 21, Chicago 20
New Orleans 13, Detroit 7
Philadelphia 31, Dallas 7
Phoenix 27, Washington 24
San Francisco 27, L.A. Rams 24
Interconference
Indianapolis 24, Tampa Bay 14
L.A. Raiders 13, N.Y. Giants 10

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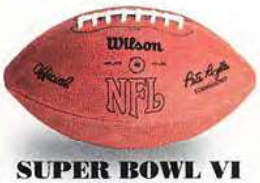
SUPER BOWL I
Green Bay 35, Kansas City 10

SUPER BOWL II
Green Bay 33, Oakland 14

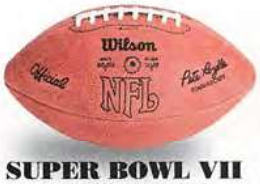
SUPER BOWL III
N.Y. Jets 16, Baltimore 7

SUPER BOWL IV
Kansas City 23, Minnesota 7

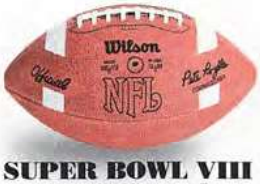
SUPER BOWL V
Baltimore 16, Dallas 13



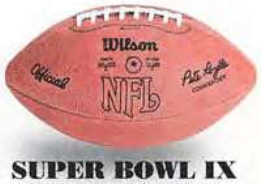
SUPER BOWL VI
Dallas 24, Miami 3



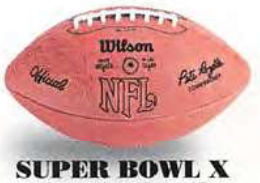
SUPER BOWL VII
Miami 14, Washington 7



SUPER BOWL VIII
Miami 24, Minnesota 7



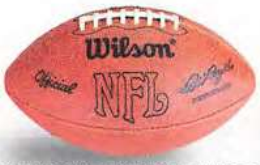
SUPER BOWL IX
Pittsburgh 16, Minnesota 6



SUPER BOWL X
Pittsburgh 21, Dallas 17

SUPER BOWL XI
Oakland 32, Minnesota 14

SUPER BOWL XII
Dallas 27, Denver 10



SUPER BOWL XIII
Pittsburgh 35, Dallas 31

SUPER BOWL XIV
Pittsburgh 31, Los Angeles 19

SUPER BOWL XV
Oakland 27, Philadelphia 10

SUPER BOWL XVI
San Francisco 26, Cincinnati 21

SUPER BOWL XVII
Washington 27, Miami 17

SUPER BOWL XVIII
L.A. Raiders 38, Washington 9

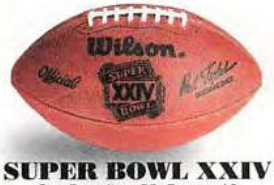
SUPER BOWL XIX
San Francisco 38, Miami 16

SUPER BOWL XX
Chicago 46, New England 10

SUPER BOWL XXI
N.Y. Giants 39, Denver 20

SUPER BOWL XXII
Washington 42, Denver 10

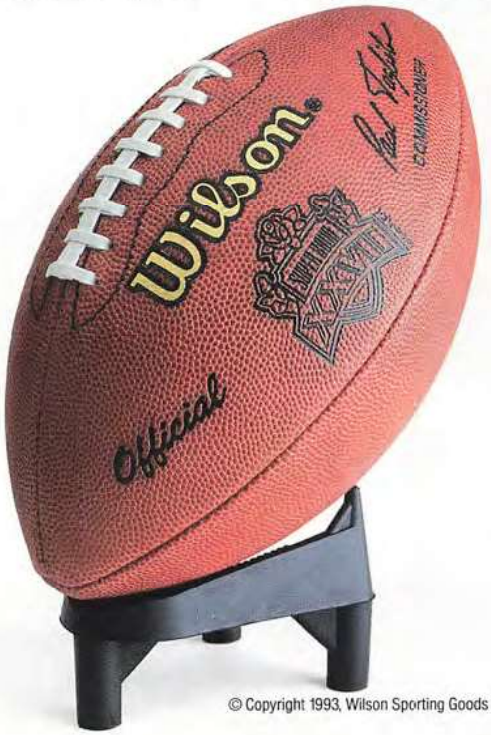
SUPER BOWL XXIII
San Francisco 20, Cincinnati 16



SUPER BOWL XXIV
San Francisco 55, Denver 10

SUPER BOWL XXV
N.Y. Giants 20, Buffalo 19

SUPER BOWL XXVI
Washington 37, Buffalo 24



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WEEK 6

No 'Gift' Dolphins Overcome Atlanta's 10-Point Lead, Stay Unbeaten; Eagles Take First Loss, Fall to Chiefs

OCTOBER 11

The Miami Dolphins were off to the best start in the NFL, but defensive leader John Offerdahl took it in stride.

"We're 5-0, but we have to realize we're not God's gift to football," the Miami linebacker said.

The Dolphins weren't God's gift to anyone when they fell behind fired-up Atlanta 17-7 in the third quarter on a warm day in Miami. But cornerback Vestee Jackson returned an interception 30 yards for a touchdown, and Dan Marino led yet another fourth-quarter rally, and the Dolphins won 21-17.

The victory, coupled with the Eagles' loss in Kansas City, left Miami as the only unbeaten team in the NFL. Twice before, in 1972 and 1984, the Dolphins had started a season 5-0, and both years they went to the Super Bowl.

Atlanta built its 10-point lead against Miami on 2 touchdown passes by Chris Miller and Norm Johnson's 52-yard field goal. But Jackson's third-quarter interception sliced the Falcons' lead to 17-14.

Then Marino rallied the Dolphins in the fourth quarter for the third time this season and twenty-first time in his career. Throwing quickly to beat the Atlanta rush, Marino marched his team 77 yards to the winning touchdown. The big play on the drive was a 46-yard strike to Tony Martin that put Miami at the Falcons' 15.

Mark Higgs, who scored Miami's first touchdown on a 14-yard run, got this one on a 1-yard dash around right end with 5:01 left.

"Nothing changes," Atlanta coach Jerry Glanville said of Marino. "He's the best. I thought we had them where we wanted them."

The Falcons didn't go quietly, driving to the Miami 12, but Miller's fourth-and-7 pass was broken up by safety Liffort Hobley with 35 seconds left.

In Kansas City, the run-happy, grind-it-out Chiefs burned the Eagles with passes as they took a 24-3 lead and handed Philadelphia its first loss of the season, 24-17.

"They're a big-play defense, but they're also vulnerable," Chiefs quarterback Dave Krieg said.

To prove his point, the 33-year-old quarterback twice caught the Eagles in first-half blitzes and threw 43- and 24-yard touchdown passes to J.J. Birden. In the third quarter, he fired a 74-yard touchdown pass to rookie Willie Davis on a play-action pass.

Krieg's 3 touchdown passes gave him 201 in his career, making him the fifteenth NFL quarterback to surpass 200. The Chiefs ran the ball 19 times, their lowest total since late 1990, and threw 26 passes.

"They fooled us," Eagles safety Andre Waters said. "We figured they would pass, but not that much. And we had coverage mistakes. It was one of those games where we didn't play smart."

The Chiefs also sacked Randall Cunningham 6 times, 3 by linebacker Derrick Thomas and 2 by end Neil Smith. Cunningham threw 10- and 4-yard touchdown passes to tight end Pat Beach in a belated fourth-quarter rally.

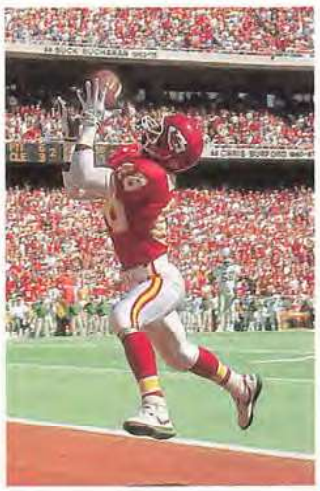
There was a big surprise in Los Angeles, where the Raiders, playing brilliantly on defense, stopped Buffalo, the NFL's leading offensive team, 20-3. The Bills, who averaged 38 points in winning their first four games, had scored only 13 in successive losses to Miami and Los Angeles.

"I wish I had an answer to why we're playing the way we are," Bills quarterback Jim Kelly said.

Kelly passed for 302 yards against the Raiders, but was sacked 5 times, twice each by defensive ends Howie Long and Antho-

Paul Jasienski

Defensive end Anthony Smith sacked Jim Kelly twice to help the Raiders stifle the Bills 20-3.



J.J. Birden caught 2 touchdown passes, including this 24-yarder, as the Chiefs beat the Eagles.

Jeff Taylor

Marv Rubin

Quote

Seahawks coach **Tom Flores**, noting his team had 12 players on the injured reserve list:

"Whoever has that voodoo doll, I wish they'd take the pins out of it."

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Miami	5	0	0
Buffalo	4	2	0
Indianapolis	3	2	0
N.Y. Jets	1	5	0
New England	0	5	0
AFC Central			
Houston	4	1	0
Pittsburgh	3	2	0
Cincinnati	2	3	0
Cleveland	2	3	0
AFC West			
Denver	4	2	0
Kansas City	4	2	0
L.A. Raiders	2	4	0
San Diego	1	4	0
Seattle	1	5	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	4	1	0
Philadelphia	4	1	0
Washington	3	2	0
N.Y. Giants	2	3	0
Phoenix	1	4	0
NFC Central			
Minnesota	4	1	0
Tampa Bay	3	2	0
Chicago	2	3	0
Green Bay	2	3	0
Detroit	1	4	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	5	1	0
New Orleans	4	2	0
Atlanta	2	4	0
L.A. Rams	2	4	0

Scores

AFC

Cleveland 17, Pittsburgh 9
Houston 38, Cincinnati 24
Indianapolis 6, N.Y. Jets 3
L.A. Raiders 20, Buffalo 3

NFC

New Orleans 13, L.A. Rams 10
N.Y. Giants 31, Phoenix 21

Interconference

Dallas 27, Seattle 0
Kansas City 24, Philadelphia 17
Miami 21, Atlanta 17
San Francisco 24, New England 12
Washington 34, Denver 3

Mary Ann Carter

The Colts won their second game in a row on Dean Biasucci's 47-yard field goal in overtime against the Jets.

ny Smith. Even when the Bills moved the ball, the Raiders threw them back. Buffalo drove to the Los Angeles 9-, 21-, 19-, 3-, and 16-yard lines without scoring.

Meanwhile, the Raiders' Todd Marinovich threw touchdown passes of 2 yards to Eric Dickerson and 52 yards to dangerous Tim Brown, who gained most of that yardage after the catch.

In Texas, the Cowboys bounced back from their Monday-night loss to the Eagles by swamping injury-wracked Seattle 27-0.

The Seahawks, who had lost quarterback Kelly Stouffer for about a month the week before, lost backup Dan McGwire for the season when he suffered a broken hip in the third quarter.

The Cowboys sacked McGwire and third-string quarterback Stan Gelbaugh 7 times, and held the Seahawks to only 6 first downs and a Dallas-record 62 total yards.

The Cowboys' defense also scored or set up 17 points, including safety Ray Horton's 15-yard interception return for a touchdown. At the end of the game, the Seahawks were running out the clock.

"We just wanted to get out of town," Seattle coach Tom Flores said. "This one was over."

The Seahawks were not only losing games, they were losing players. The injury to McGwire left five starters and three key backups on injured reserve.

In New Orleans, the Saints continued to have trouble scoring, but, thanks to their usual fierce defense and a rookie punt returner, they escaped with a 13-10 victory over the Rams.

The two teams were tied 10-10 in the fourth quarter when rookie Marcus Dowdell, a tenth-round draft choice in his first game, returned a punt 34 yards to the Rams' 37. New Orleans drove to the 13, setting up Morten Andersen's winning 30-yard field goal with 3:37 left.

In Cincinnati, Warren Moon threw 5 touchdown passes as the Oilers ripped the Bengals 38-24 for their fourth consecutive victory.

The Houston quarterback threw 8-, 14-, and 3-yard scoring passes to Haywood Jeffires and 2- and 7-yard touchdown passes to Ernest Givins as his team took a 38-10 lead. Lorenzo White ran for 149 yards.

The Giants lost quarterback Phil Simms for about six weeks with an elbow injury, but Jeff Hostetler threw a touchdown pass and ran 16 yards for another score as New York thumped Phoenix 31-21. Rodney Hampton rushed for 167 yards, including a 63-yard touchdown run.

In Indianapolis, the Colts won their second in a row and third in five games under new coach Ted Marchibroda by nipping the Jets 6-3 in overtime.

Although they led in first downs (22-8) and yards (282-147), the Colts had to go overtime to win because Dean Biasucci missed 3 of his first 4 field-goal attempts. Given another chance in overtime, Biasucci nailed a 47-yard kick to win it. ☆

Monk Has His Day

Scott Cunningham

Art Monk's 820th career catch broke the NFL record.

Late in the fourth quarter, wide receiver Art Monk went in motion to the right, turned upfield, and cut to the right sideline. Redskins quarterback Mark Rypien hit him with a 10-yard pass, and just like that, history was made.

It was the 820th catch of Monk's 13-year NFL career, eclipsing the standard set by former Seattle star Steve Largent. Largent had owned the record since 1987, when he surpassed Charlie Joiner's mark of 750.

"It means a lot," the quiet Monk said later. "The Lord has really blessed me."

It meant a lot to his teammates, too, as they raced across the field to lift the 34-year-old Monk to their shoulders. They probably would have carried him right to the locker room, but there still were about three minutes left in the game.

The game had been decided long before, the Redskins storming to a 34-3 lead over Denver, a score that held up.

On the Monday night he broke the record, Monk caught 7 passes for 69 yards, including 3 on the final drive when coach Joe Gibbs decided to get him the record. Six- and 18-yard receptions, the latter tying Largent, preceded number 820.

"It was great to see Art get the record," Gibbs said. "The only three I've ever padded for him were at the end there.

"But I kind of wanted to get it over because I didn't want the pressure to keep mounting for another week."

So Rypien threw 3 consecutive passes to Monk, and, typically, he caught them all.

"That was the toughest part of the game," Rypien said. "I had tunnel vision on that last one. Desmond Howard was wide open in the end zone, but all I saw was number eighty-one."

"It's a big burden off my shoulders," Monk said. "I was very nervous before the game, and that's something I'm not used to being. I really didn't know how to handle it.

"I tried not to think about it during the season, but it was hard with everybody talking about it. And I tried not to keep count tonight, but my teammates kept telling me how many catches I had every time I came back to the sideline."

Players of the Week

AFC OFFENSE—**Dave Krieg** passed for 272 yards and 3 touchdowns as he led Kansas City to a 24-17 victory over unbeaten Philadelphia.

AFC DEFENSE—Cornerback **Terry McDaniel** made 9 tackles and returned an interception 46 yards to set up a field goal as the Raiders surprised Buffalo 20-3.

Al Messerschmidt

Krieg shocked the Eagles.

Jeff Taylor

Jackson had 3 sacks.

NFC OFFENSE—Wide receiver **Art Monk** caught 7 passes for 69 yards, which raised his career total to an NFL-record 820 receptions as Washington routed Denver 34-3.

NFC DEFENSE—Linebacker **Rickey Jackson** had 5 tackles, including 3 sacks, as the Saints edged the Rams 13-10.

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WEEK 7

Oilers Fall Victim to More Elway Magic, Dolphins Remain Undefeated, and 49ers Win Fifth in a Row

OCTOBER 15

Dan Reeves has coached John Elway for 10 years, yet even he seemed stunned by his quarterback.

"To have another comeback like that is unbelievable," he said.

Unbelievable...but routine for Elway. For the third time in seven weeks, he rallied his team to victory in the last two minutes, the Broncos storming back to beat Houston 27-21. To win the game, Elway drove his team 80 yards in three plays and 22 seconds for the touchdown that snapped Houston's four-game winning streak.

In the AFC playoffs in January, Elway beat Houston in the last minute with an 87-yard field-goal drive.

"I'm hurt," Houston linebacker Al Smith said. "I'm mad. I'm dejected."

Miami coach Don Shula was happy. His Dolphins defeated New England 38-17 to remain the NFL's only unbeaten team at 6-0. Meanwhile, the 49ers (6-1), Vikings (5-1), and Cowboys (5-1), all of whom won, had the best records in the NFC.

In Denver, where the lead changed hands five times, Houston's Warren Moon passed for 321 yards, including a 7-yard touchdown throw to Haywood Jeffires that gave the Oilers the lead with 1:56 left.

Enter Elway. In succession, he threw to Mark Jackson for 39 yards, to Vance Johnson for 21, and then handed off to Reggie Rivers, who dashed 20 yards up the middle for the winning touchdown with 1:34 left.

"I don't want to understand how I do these things," Elway said.

He has been doing them throughout his NFL career—and the numbers are mind-boggling. It was Elway's thirty-first winning or tying fourth-quarter drive as a Bronco. Counting games eventually won in overtime, Denver had a 30-0-1 record in those 31 games.

In Miami, winless New England took a 10-0 first-quarter lead on the Dolphins, helped by Tommy Hodson's 54-yard touchdown pass to Irving Fryar. But Miami scored 38 consecutive points in the next two quarters to win with ease.

Dan Marino passed for 4 touchdowns to tie Johnny Unitas's career record with 17 games of 4 or more touchdown passes. Marino fired bombs of 44 yards to Mark Clayton and 43 yards to Mark Duper, and added two short touchdown passes to tight end Keith Jackson.

"We had some problems early, but we came back and played well," Marino said. "I've learned you just have to keep going after it."

In San Francisco, the 49ers jumped to a 42-10 halftime lead, amassed 590 yards, and routed Atlanta 56-17 for their fifth victory in a row. It was the most points ever scored by SanFrancisco.

"This was fun," 49ers quarterback Steve Young said. "We were just on a roll."

Young passed for 399 yards and 3 touchdowns, including 80- and 40-yard bombs to Jerry Rice.

Rice finished with 7 catches for 183 yards and also scored on a 26-yard reverse to finish the game with 102 career touch-

George Rose

The 49ers' Jerry Rice scored 3 times against Atlanta, giving him 102 touchdowns in his career.

Paul Jasienski

For the third time in seven weeks, John Elway rallied Denver to victory in the last two minutes.

Green Without Envy

When he was hired by the Minnesota Vikings, it was noted that Dennis Green was only the second black head coach in modern NFL history.

This bit of trivia didn't impress Green much.

"I don't think a player is concerned with what my race is," he said at the time. "I think he wants someone who will teach him something."

After six games, it was obvious Green had taught the Vikings a lot. In particular, he had taught them how to win again.

When they raced past the Lions 31-14 in a rare Thursday night game, the Vikings raised their record to 5-1, the club's fastest start since 1976, its last Super Bowl season. Minnesota, which had won only one division title since 1980, now led the NFC Central Division by two full games.

"We like where we're sitting right now," Green said. "We like being in first. We like it a lot."

The Vikings were considered perhaps the NFL's worst underachievers when Green took over. Despite a wealth of Pro Bowl players (a high of nine in 1988), the team sagged to a 6-10 record in 1990, then 8-8 in 1991.

Dennis Green had the Vikings in first place.

But Green waived or traded several veteran players, restored discipline, fostered unity, got the team off to an unbeaten start in the preseason (the Vikings outscored their four opponents 140-6), and has never looked back.

"He brought us a rebirth," said safety Todd Scott, who was tied for the NFC lead with 4 interceptions. "When you look at where we are, look at Dennis Green first. He's responsible for the change."

The 5-1 record was no fluke. The Vikings ranked third in the NFL in defense and sixth in offense, making them the only club in the league to be ranked in the top six in both categories.

Rich Gannon had thrown 11 touchdown passes, Terry Allen was averaging 5 yards a carry, Cris Carter had caught 6 touchdown passes, and Chris Doleman had 8 sacks.

There were no more underachievers in Minnesota.

Joe Patronite

Players of the Week

AFC OFFENSE—**Rod Bernstine** ran for 150 yards and 2 touchdowns in a little more than three quarters as the Chargers beat the Colts 31-14. Unfortunately, he also suffered a dislocated shoulder, had surgery, and figured to be out six weeks.

AFC DEFENSE—Defensive end **Anthony Smith** had 4 sacks, 2 other tackles, and 2 forced fumbles (1 that led to a safety) as the Raiders blanked Seattle 19-0.

Scott Cunningham

Marshall helped stop the Eagles.

Don Larson

Bernstine ran for 150 yards.

NFC OFFENSE—Wide receiver **Jerry Rice** caught 7 passes for 183 yards and 2 touchdowns and scored on a 26-yard run to help the 49ers rout Atlanta 56-17.

NFC DEFENSE—Linebacker **Wilber Marshall** had 11 tackles, including 1 sack and 1 for a loss, plus a deflected pass and a fumble recovery, in the Redskins' 16-12 victory over the Eagles.

The Cowboys seized sole possession of first place when the Eagles lost to Washington 16-12. It was the second defeat in a row for Philadelphia, which began the season 4-0. The Eagles also lost safety Andre Waters, their leading tackler, with a broken leg.

Forced to play without two injured starters on their offensive line, the Redskins went to a full-house backfield, which included two tight ends and a running back. The moves resulted in a 320-yard day against the Eagles' top-rated defense. Mark Rypien threw a touchdown pass to Gary Clark, and Chip Lohmiller kicked 3 field goals.

Meanwhile, the Washington defense sacked Randall Cunningham 5 times and held Herschel Walker to 8 yards on 7 carries. The Eagles didn't score a touchdown until the game's last 25 seconds.

Despite the loss, Cunningham ran for 39 yards to break Fran Tarkenton's NFL career rushing record for quarterbacks (3,674 yards). Cunningham finished the game with 3,683 career yards.

Marv Rubin

Quote

Denver safety **Steve Atwater**, noting the Broncos had won all four home games in the thin air of Mile High Stadium, including three in the last two minutes:

"It's tough for the fat lady to sing here."

In Chicago, Jim Harbaugh and the Bears celebrated coach Mike Ditka's fifty-third birthday by stopping Tampa Bay 31-14. Harbaugh passed for 304 yards and 2 touchdowns, including an 83-yard collaboration with Anthony Morgan.

"It's enjoyable to win again," said Ditka. "Need I say more?"

Bobby Hebert had a big day, too, passing the Saints to a 30-21 victory in Phoenix. The Cardinals had a 14-3 lead in the second quarter, but New Orleans scored 27 consecutive points to break it open.

Hebert passed for 355 yards and 3 touchdowns, including 1 of 59 yards to Quinn Early. Eric Martin had 8 catches for 151 yards, 1 for a touchdown.

"Some of the biggest passing plays weren't conventional," Hebert said. "They were ad-libbed."

The Browns were doing a good job of ad-libbing, too. With quarterback Bernie Kosar still out with a broken ankle, Cleveland won its third game in the last four by stopping the Packers 17-6.

In holding Green Bay to 2 field goals, the Browns' defense increased to 13 the number of consecutive quarters it had not allowed a touchdown. The offense got a boost from Kevin Mack, who ran for 75 yards and 2 touchdowns. Mike Tomczak directed 73- and 80-yard touchdown drives.

In Anaheim, the Rams rebounded from a pair of 3-point road losses to rout the Giants 38-17. Jim Everett completed 18 of 21 passes for 2 touchdowns, while Cleveland Gary ran for 126 yards and 2 scores.

On a chilly Monday night in Pittsburgh, Barry Foster ran for 108 yards, and Neil O'Donnell threw 2 touchdown passes to Dwight Stone as the Steelers shut out the Bengals 20-0. The shutout snapped Cincinnati kicker Jim Breech's NFL-record 186-game scoring streak. ☆

downs. He became the eighth player in NFL history to score 100 or more touchdowns.

Ricky Watters, the NFL leader in total yards from scrimmage, ran for 75 yards and 3 touchdowns and caught 3 passes for 57 more yards.

In Dallas, the Cowboys took over sole possession of first place in the NFC East for the first time since 1986 with a 17-10 victory over the Chiefs. It was their tenth victory in a row at home, the longest current streak in the NFL.

"I think we have a Super Bowl-caliber team," Dallas coach Jimmy Johnson said.

Emmitt Smith rushed for 95 yards and a touchdown, while Troy Aikman completed 21-of-29 passes, 1 for a touchdown. Safety Ray Horton saved the game when he intercepted a pass from Dave Krieg on Dallas's 8-yard line with 3:27 left.

Kevin Terrell/NFLP

Cleveland Gary ran for 126 yards and 2 scores as the Rams beat the Giants.

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Miami	6	0	0
Buffalo	4	2	0
Indianapolis	3	3	0
N.Y. Jets	1	5	0
New England	0	6	0
AFC Central			
Houston	4	2	0
Pittsburgh	4	2	0
Cleveland	3	3	0
Cincinnati	2	4	0
AFC West			
Denver	5	2	0
Kansas City	4	3	0
L.A. Raiders	3	4	0
San Diego	2	4	0
Seattle	1	6	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	5	1	0
Philadelphia	4	2	0
Washington	4	2	0
N.Y. Giants	2	4	0
Phoenix	1	5	0
NFC Central			
Minnesota	5	1	0
Chicago	3	3	0
Tampa Bay	3	3	0
Green Bay	2	4	0
Detroit	1	5	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	6	1	0
New Orleans	5	2	0
L.A. Rams	3	4	0
Atlanta	2	5	0

Scores

AFC
Denver 27, Houston 21
L.A. Raiders 19, Seattle 0
Miami 38, New England 17
Pittsburgh 20, Cincinnati 0
San Diego 34, Indianapolis 14

NFC
Chicago 31, Tampa Bay 14
L.A. Rams 38, N.Y. Giants 17
Minnesota 31, Detroit 14
New Orleans 28, Phoenix 21
San Francisco 56, Atlanta 17
Washington 16, Philadelphia 12

Interconference
Cleveland 17, Green Bay 6
Dallas 17, Kansas City 10

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WEEK 8

Emtman Hits Scoring Column as Colts Shock Dolphins; Eagles, Bills Get Back on Track After Two Losses

OCTOBER 25

Three times this season Dan Marino has rallied Miami to fourth-quarter victories—and he was close to doing it again.

Trailing Indianapolis 24-20 with 17 seconds remaining, he had marched the unbeaten Dolphins 55 yards to the Colts' 7-yard line, where Miami lined up on fourth-and-goal.

With all eyes on Marino, the Miami quarterback aimed at running back Bobby Humphrey in the end zone. The pass never got there. It was stabbed out of the air by 290-pound defensive end Steve Emtman, who angled toward the left sideline, then huffed and puffed 90 yards for a touchdown as time ran out.

The NFL's last unbeaten team (6-0) had suffered its first loss, 31-20.

"I just got my hands up, and the ball hit my hands and stuck," Emtman said. "The next thing I knew, I was running."

Including Emtman's run, the Colts scored 17 points following Miami turnovers. Clarence Verdin also raced 84 yards to score on a punt return.

Marino passed for 355 yards, including a 12-yard scoring strike to Tony Martin that put Miami ahead 20-17 with 6:01 left. But Pete Stoyanovich missed the conversion.

Because of the miss, when the Colts' Jeff George scored on a 1-yard rollout for a 24-20 lead with 1:32 left, Miami was forced to go for a touchdown instead of a game-tying field goal.

The Eagles and Bills, who started the season 4-0 before losing two consecutive games, got back on the winning track. The Eagles held off the Phoenix Cardinals 7-3, while the Bills rallied to defeat the New York Jets 24-20 on Monday night.

In Philadelphia, the Eagles played without five injured starters, but a touchdown pass by Randall Cunningham, 112 rushing yards by Herschel Walker, and a remarkable goal-line stand were enough to beat the Cardinals.

Cunningham's 40-yard pass to Calvin Williams was the game's only touchdown. Meanwhile, the Eagles' top-ranked defense stopped the Cardinals on six successive plays at or inside the 1-yard line in the second quarter.

The goal-line stand began after an interception by cornerback Aeneas Williams gave Phoenix the ball on the Eagles' 3. On first down, Johnny Bailey wiggled to the 1. Then, despite three offside penalties against Philadelphia, six running plays in a row failed to reach the end zone.

Brian Spurlock

Barry Sanders ran for 122 yards and scored on a 55-yard run as the Lions, who had been struggling, rolled past Tampa Bay 38-7.

Barry II Good

Almost halfway through the season, the leading rusher in the NFL was Pittsburgh's Barry Foster, who was somewhat amused by his lofty ranking.

"I don't think a lot of people know too much about me," he said. "They probably think I'm Barry Sanders."

Actually, Foster had 258 rushing yards more than Detroit's Barry Sanders and 14 more than runner-up Emmitt Smith of Dallas. After seven games, he had run for 747 yards, averaged 4.6 per carry, and surpassed 100 yards five times. The Steelers' record for 100-yard games in a season was seven by Pro Football Hall of Fame member Franco Harris.

"All I want is to be leading at the end of the season," the 23-year-old Foster said. "But that's so far ahead that I'm not worried about it."

He wasn't worried about his team, either, which, under new head coach Bill Cowher, was tied for first in the AFC Central with Houston at 5-2. In game seven, Foster ran for 105 yards and a touchdown in a stunning 27-3 victory over Kansas City.

"Barry is a very talented running back," Cowher said, "very tough, with deceiving speed, and he makes people miss. People aren't going to arm tackle him."

Peter Brouillet

Barry Foster led the NFL in rushing.

Cowher and offensive coordinator Ron Erhardt, who coached the run-oriented Giants' offense when New York won two Super Bowls (XXI and XXV), decided before the season that Foster would be their featured back.

They stuck with him even when he lost three fumbles against the Jets in week 2. Their patience was rewarded when Foster ran for 190 yards and scored on 23- and 54-yard runs as the Steelers won 27-10. In five games since, he had fumbled only two more times.

The former Wishbone fullback from Arkansas showed his potential in 1991 when he ran for 428 yards in the first seven games. A sprained ankle limited him to just 21 carries after that.

The NFL's leading rusher was a fifth-round draft choice and the nineteenth running back chosen in 1990. Former Steelers special teams coach George Stewart, an Arkansas graduate, lobbied for Foster.

"The best description of Barry is he's hungry," Stewart said in 1991. "Hungry players with talent usually succeed at any level."

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T
Miami	6	1	0	Dallas	6	1	0
Buffalo	5	2	0	Philadelphia	5	2	0
Indianapolis	4	3	0	Washington	5	2	0
N.Y. Jets	1	6	0	N.Y. Giants	3	4	0
New England	0	7	0	Phoenix	1	6	0
AFC Central				**NFC Central**			
Houston	5	2	0	Minnesota	5	2	0
Pittsburgh	5	2	0	Chicago	4	3	0
Cleveland	4	3	0	Tampa Bay	3	4	0
Cincinnati	2	5	0	Detroit	2	5	0
AFC West				Green Bay	2	5	0
Denver	5	3	0	**NFC West**			
Kansas City	4	4	0	San Francisco	6	1	0
San Diego	3	4	0	New Orleans	5	2	0
L.A. Raiders	3	5	0	L.A. Rams	3	4	0
Seattle	1	7	0	Atlanta	2	5	0

Scores

AFC

Buffalo 24, N.Y. Jets 20
Cleveland 19, New England 17
Houston 26, Cincinnati 10
Indianapolis 31, Miami 20
Pittsburgh 27, Kansas City 3
San Diego 24, Denver 21

NFC

Chicago 30, Green Bay 10
Detroit 38, Tampa Bay 7
Philadelphia 7, Phoenix 3
Washington 15, Minnesota 13

Interconference

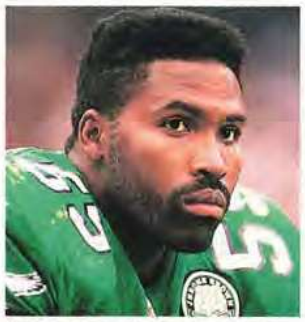
Dallas 28, L.A. Raiders 13
N.Y. Giants 23, Seattle 10

Players of the Week

AFC OFFENSE—**Stan Humphries** passed for 349 yards and 2 touchdowns and also scored on a 2-yard run to lead the Chargers past Denver 24-21.

AFC DEFENSE—Defensive end **Steve Emtman** scored the clinching touchdown on a 90-yard interception return, and also forced a fumble and had 5 tackles, including a sack, as the Colts beat Miami 31-20.

Humphries riddled the Broncos.



Joyner had 13 tackles against Phoenix.

NFC OFFENSE—**Emmitt Smith** ran for 152 yards and scored 3 touchdowns as Dallas stopped the Raiders 28-13 before the NFL's largest crowd of the season, 91,895, in Los Angeles.

NFC DEFENSE—Linebacker **Seth Joyner** made 13 tackles, intercepted a pass, and recovered a fumble that set up the game's only touchdown to help the Eagles defeat the Cardinals 7-3.

Three times this season Dan Marino has rallied Miami to fourth-quarter victories—and he was close to doing it again.

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With all eyes on Marino, the Miami quarterback aimed at running back Bobby Humphrey in the end zone. The pass never got there. It was stabbed out of the air by 290-pound defensive end Steve Emtman, who angled toward the left sideline, then huffed and puffed 90 yards for a touchdown as time ran out.

The NFL's last unbeaten team (6-0) had suffered its first loss, 31-20.

"I just got my hands up, and the ball hit my hands and stuck," Emtman said. "The next thing I knew, I was running."

Including Emtman's run, the Colts scored 17 points following Miami turnovers. Clarence Verdin also raced 84 yards to score on a punt return.

Marino passed for 355 yards, including a 12-yard scoring strike to Tony Martin that put Miami ahead 20-17 with 6:01 left. But Pete Stoyanovich missed the conversion.

Because of the miss, when the Colts' Jeff George scored on a 1-yard rollout for a 24-20 lead with 1:32 left, Miami was forced to go for a touchdown instead of a game-tying field goal.

The Eagles and Bills, who started the season 4-0 before losing two consecutive games, got back on the winning track. The Eagles held off the Phoenix Cardinals 7-3, while the Bills rallied to defeat the New York Jets 24-20 on Monday night.

John Sandhaus

Tony Blaylock's late interception saved San Diego's 24-21 victory over Denver.

Emmitt Smith ran for 152 yards to help Dallas beat the Raiders 28-13.

Kevin Terrell/NFLP

In Philadelphia, the Eagles played without five injured starters, but a touchdown pass by Randall Cunningham, 112 rushing yards by Herschel Walker, and a remarkable goal-line stand were enough to beat the Cardinals.

Cunningham's 40-yard pass to Calvin Williams was the game's only touchdown. Meanwhile, the Eagles' top-ranked defense stopped the Cardinals on six successive plays at or inside the 1-yard line in the second quarter.

The goal-line stand began after an interception by cornerback Aeneas Williams gave Phoenix the ball on the Eagles' 3. On first down, Johnny Bailey wiggled to the 1. Then, despite three offside penalties against Philadelphia, six running plays in a row failed to reach the end zone.

"What you saw out there today was the best defense I've ever seen," Eagles coach Rich Kotite said.

"They kept hammering, and we kept stuffing," defensive tackle Mike Golic said.

The final stuff was end Reggie White's tackle of Bailey on a fourth-and-8-inches play. In reality, it was a seventh-and-8-inches play.

Bob Rosato

John Sandhaus

On Monday night at the Meadowlands, Buffalo's Jim Kelly led a rally that overcame the Jets in the closing minute and extended the Bills' winning streak over New York to 10 games.

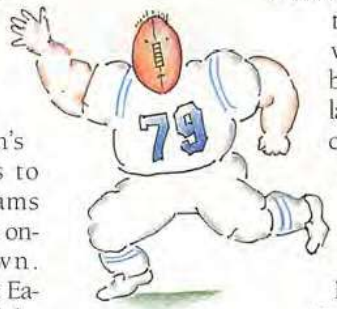
The Jets had taken a 20-17 lead on Brad Baxter's 1-yard touchdown run with 1:50 left. It came on the first play after a 44-yard interference penalty on a perfectly thrown pass to the end zone from Ken O'Brien to Rob Moore.

Kelly responded by marching the Bills 75 yards in 59 seconds for the winning touch-down. He finished the drive with a 12-yard pass to Thurman Thomas with 51 seconds remaining.

"It looked like it went through the whole [Jets] football team before it landed," Buffalo center Kent Hull said in amazement.

On the winning drive, Kelly hit Don Beebe with 2 passes for 53 yards. For the game, Thomas ran for 142 yards.

In Minneapolis, the Redskins played most of the game without three injured offensive line starters and failed to score a touchdown, but still managed to



Marv Rubin

Quote

Colts defensive end **Steve Emtman**, asked how he was able to grab Dan Marino's short, hard pass, which he returned 90 yards for the clinching touchdown in a 31-20 victory over Miami, joked:

"It stuck in my facemask."

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WEEK 9

Ghosts of Halloween Come One Day Late to Claim 49ers, Dolphins, Redskins as Victims; Steelers Hang On

NOVEMBER 1

About twice a season, the NFL has one of those days when you look at the final scores and wonder, *What's going on here anyway?*

The day after Halloween was one of those days.

The 49ers, Dolphins, and Redskins were rolling along with a combined record of 17-4, but they lost to the Cardinals, Jets, and Giants, respectively, who were a collective 5-16. It was enough to make Jerry Rice philosophical.

"I'd say we learned a lot today," the 49ers' wide receiver said after his team fell to Phoenix 24-14. "You can't take anything for granted."

In Phoenix, Johnny Johnson ran for 102 yards, and Chris Chandler threw 3 touchdown passes, 2 to Randal Hill, as the Cardinals jumped ahead 17-0 and held on for the victory. Phoenix controlled the ball for 36 minutes.

"The running game definitely set up the passing game," Chandler said. "If you're facing third-and-long all day, it's an uphill battle."

It *was* an uphill battle for the 49ers, who lost quarterback Steve Young because of the flu in the second quarter. Backup Steve Bono produced only 1 touchdown.

The 49ers got their only other touchdown thanks to the pickpocket-like hands of Mike Sherrard, who stole the ball from Phoenix linebacker Eric Hill and returned it 39 yards to the end zone after Hill had recovered a 49ers' fumble.

At the Meadowlands, the Jets were without injured quarterback Browning Nagle, but they turned to veteran Ken O'Brien, who directed a 26-14 defeat of Miami. It was the Dolphins' second consecutive loss after a 6-0 start.

O'Brien passed for 3 first-half touchdowns to lead New York to a 23-0 halftime lead that held up. The Jets controlled the ball for more than 40 minutes even without injured leading rusher Blair Thomas. Brad Baxter ran for 103 yards.

"For the first time this season, we can say that it was our day," Jets defensive end Marvin Washington said. Washington made his own day by throwing Dan Marino for a safety, the quarterback's first in the NFL.

There was another surprise in the nation's capital when the Giants rushed for 241 yards, kept the ball for more than 39 minutes, and beat the Redskins 24-7 on a cold, rainy Sunday night.

The Redskins had jumped ahead 7-0 in the first quarter on Brian Mitchell's 84-yard punt return for a touchdown, his third punt-return score in two years, but Jeff Hostetler led the Giants to a 21-7 halftime lead.

The 31-year-old quarterback scrambled 27 yards to set up one touchdown and then threw scoring passes to Ed McCaffrey and David Meggett in the last 2:36 of the half. For the night, Rodney Hampton rushed for 138 yards.

Greg LeBoeuf

Chris Chandler threw 3 touchdown passes as the Cardinals surprised the 49ers 24-14.

In Pittsburgh, the Steelers and Oilers, both 5-2, met in a showdown for first place in the AFC Central. With six seconds left, Houston's Al Del Greco hooked a 39-yard field-goal attempt wide left and the Steelers hung on to win 21-20.

"I think I'm a good pressure kicker, and I'm not going to change my mind on one kick," a frustrated Del Greco said.

The Oilers had built a 20-7 lead after losing quarterback Warren Moon with a concussion early in the third quarter. Trailing 7-6, Houston backup Cody Carlson threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Webster Slaughter. Then, 63 seconds later, Houston defensive tackle Ray Childress returned a fumble by quarterback Neil O'Donnell 8 yards for another touchdown.

In the fourth quarter, however, O'Donnell threw short touchdown passes to tight ends Adrian Cooper and Eric Green to put Pittsburgh on top to stay. Pittsburgh's Barry Foster ran for 118 yards and a touchdown, his sixth 100-yard game of the season.

Because Pittsburgh also beat Houston on opening day, the Steel-

Players of the Week

Jim Turner

O'Brien celebrated against Miami.

AFC OFFENSE—**Ken O'Brien** passed for 240 yards and 3 touchdowns to lead the Jets to a surprising 26-14 victory over Miami.
AFC DEFENSE—Linebacker **Alfred Williams** had 5 tackles, including 2 sacks, as the Bengals beat the Browns 30-10 and snapped a five-game losing streak.

NFC OFFENSE—Tackle **Erik Williams** led the Dallas offensive line, whose blocking enabled Emmitt Smith to run for 163 yards against the NFL's number-one defense as the Cowboys rolled past the Eagles 20-10.
NFC DEFENSE—Linebacker **Jack Del Rio** intercepted 2 passes, returned 1 of them 84 yards for a touchdown, made 9 tackles, and forced a fumble to lead the Vikings past the Bears 38-10.

Rick Kolodziej

Del Rio scored on an 84-yard play.

Quote

Giants quarterback **Jeff Hostetler**, asked about a painful blow to the ribs in a 24-7 victory over the Redskins:

"Hits feel better when you win."

Marv Rubin

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ers had a big advantage in the division race.

The Vikings were in great shape in the NFC Central, too, after routing the Bears 38-10 to sweep the season series and take a two-game lead over Chicago that, in reality, was three games because of the sweep.

Minnesota linebacker Jack Del Rio intercepted 2 passes, returning one of them 84 yards in the first minute of the second half for the touchdown that broke the game open. Linebacker Carlos Jenkins returned another interception 19 yards for a fourth-quarter score, and Rich Gannon threw a 60-yard touchdown pass to tight end Steve Jordan.

"It was embarrassing," Bears running back Neal Anderson said.

It also was embarrassing for the Rams when they fell behind Atlanta 17-0 in the second quarter. But Jim Everett fired touchdown passes on four successive series, 2 of them to running back Cleveland Gary, and Los Angeles took a 28-23 third-quarter lead. Gary, who ran for 144 yards, set up 1 of his own scores with a 63-yard run.

Although the Falcons lost quarterback Chris Miller with a knee injury in the third quarter, backup Billy Joe Tolliver led an 81-yard drive and finished it off with a 13-yard touchdown pass to Michael Haynes with 12:51 left that decided the game 30-28. It was Haynes's second scoring catch of the afternoon.

Cowboys' Favorite Channel? Em-TV, of Course!

For 53 games, the Eagles had not allowed an NFL running back to rush for 100 yards against them.

On the first Sunday in November, Emmitt Smith of Dallas ran for 115 yards against Philadelphia...in the second half.

For the game, the 23-year-old Smith carried 30 times for 163 yards against the top-rated defense in the NFL, and Dallas avenged its only loss of the year 20-10. It was a huge win psychologically. The Cowboys had lost 9 of their last 10 games to the Eagles.

Halfway through the season, Dallas had the best record in the NFL (7-1), and Smith led the league in rushing with 896 yards. He also had scored 9 touchdowns, averaged 4.5 yards a carry, and caught 21 passes.

"I always say, as Emmitt goes, so go the Cowboys," Eagles safety Wes Hopkins said after the game.

Relentless Emmitt Smith of Dallas led the NFL in rushing.

James D. Smith

There was a lot of truth to that. Counting playoffs, the Cowboys were 15-1 when Smith ran for 100 or more yards.

"I've never seen a running back like him," Dallas quarterback Troy Aikman said. "It's such a treat to watch him.

"Some of the holes he picks through, you think he's buried on the bottom somewhere, and he's squirting out the other end."

"I try to avoid as much contact as possible," Smith said. "The less contact I see, the longer I can stay in this league."

Smith avoided enough contact in 1991 to lead the NFL in rushing, gaining 1,563 yards and scoring 12 rushing touchdowns. He came into his third year with 2,500 yards, or 168 more than ex-Cowboy Tony Dorsett gained in his first two seasons. And Dorsett retired as the second-leading rusher in NFL history.

Against the Eagles, Smith made the biggest play of the game in the third quarter. The teams were tied 10-10 when he shot through a big hole, cut to his right, and raced 51 yards to set up Lin Elliott's 48-yard field goal.

In the fourth quarter, he carried 5 times for 45 yards as the Cowboys marched 78 yards to their final touchdown, which came on Aikman's 14-yard pass to fullback Daryl Johnston. In fact, Smith carried on 13 of the last 20 Dallas plays.

In the summer, Smith said his goal was to rush for 2,000 yards this season. With 896 in eight games, he had a shot.

New York's Ed McCaffrey outfought Washington's A.J. Johnson to catch a 17-yard touchdown pass as the Giants won 24-7.

R.G. Waclawicz

On Monday, however, the Falcons got bad news. Miller, who was leading the NFC with 15 touchdown passes, underwent surgery for a torn knee ligament and was lost for the season.

"It's going to be hard to give up a player like him," coach Jerry Glanville said.

In New Orleans, the Saints pulled into a tie with the 49ers for first place in the NFC West, winning their fourth straight when Morten Andersen kicked a 50-yard field goal with 9:14 left to nip Tampa Bay 23-21. Dalton Hilliard scored on an 8-yard pass from Bobby Hebert and a 17-yard run.

Tampa Bay scored all 21 of its points after turnovers, including linebacker Broderick Thomas's 56-yard interception return for a touchdown.

In San Diego, the Chargers won their fourth game in a row after an 0-4 start, ripping Indianapolis for the second time in three weeks, 26-0. Two weeks earlier, the Chargers won 34-14.

"This is a legitimate team that other teams are going to have to contend with," Colts quarterback Jeff George said, after being sacked 6 times. Defensive end Burt Grossman downed George for a safety as the Chargers held the Colts to 99 total yards.

San Diego's Stan Humphries threw 17- and 9-yard touchdown passes to Nate Lewis, and Marion Butts ran for 120 yards and a touchdown. ☆

Standings

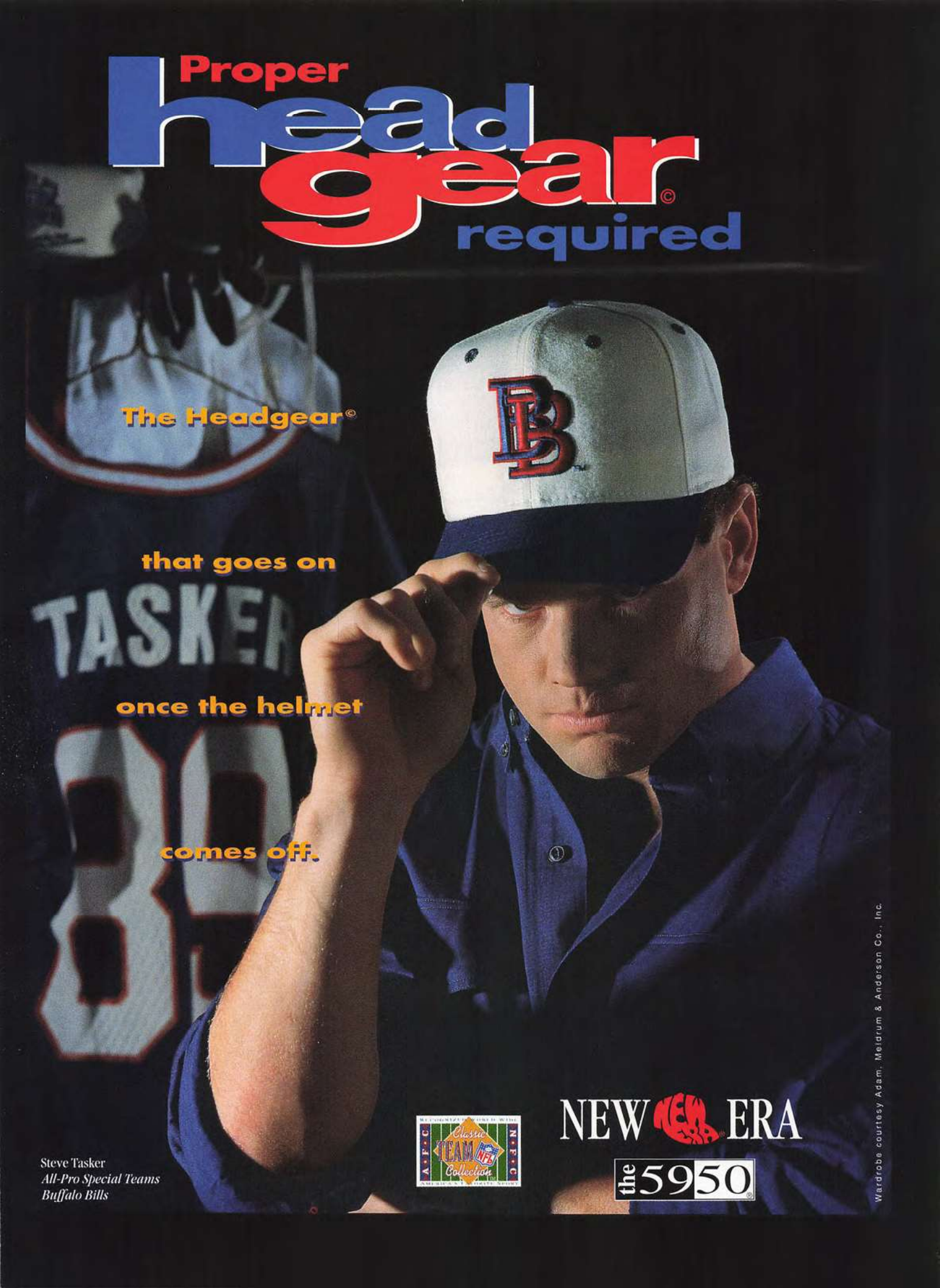
AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	6	2	0
Miami	6	2	0
Indianapolis	4	4	0
N.Y. Jets	2	6	0
New England	0	8	0
AFC Central			
Pittsburgh	6	2	0
Houston	5	3	0
Cleveland	4	4	0
Cincinnati	3	5	0
AFC West			
Denver	5	3	0
Kansas City	4	4	0
San Diego	4	4	0
L.A. Raiders	3	5	0
Seattle	1	7	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	7	1	0
Philadelphia	5	3	0
Washington	5	3	0
N.Y. Giants	4	4	0
Phoenix	2	6	0
NFC Central			
Minnesota	6	2	0
Chicago	4	4	0
Green Bay	3	5	0
Tampa Bay	3	5	0
Detroit	2	6	0
NFC West			
New Orleans	6	2	0
San Francisco	6	2	0
Atlanta	3	5	0
L.A. Rams	3	5	0

Scores

AFC
Buffalo 16, New England 7
Cincinnati 30, Cleveland 10
N.Y. Jets 26, Miami 14
Pittsburgh 21, Houston 20
San Diego 26, Indianapolis 0

NFC
Atlanta 30, L.A. Rams 28
Dallas 20, Philadelphia 10
Green Bay 27, Detroit 13
Minnesota 38, Chicago 10
New Orleans 23, Tampa Bay 21
N.Y. Giants 24, Washington 7
Phoenix 24, San Francisco 14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WEEK 10

Bills Beat Steelers in Battle of Division Leaders; 49ers Blitz Falcons for Second Time

NOVEMBER 8

Buffalo guard Mitch Frerotte lined up as an eligible receiver on the 2-yard line, and for the second time this season, Jim Kelly hit him with a touchdown pass.

"I dreamed about that pass Saturday night," Frerotte quipped later, "but Jim threw a better pass in my dream."

Arthur Anderson

Quinn Early scored twice for the Saints.

Kelly threw a lot of good passes on Sunday, as he, Frerotte, and the rest of the Bills held off Pittsburgh 28-20 in a week-10 battle of division leaders.

Kelly passed for 290 yards and 3 touchdowns, including 22- and 45-yard strikes to James Lofton. Don Beebe caught 8 passes for 101 yards. And Thurman Thomas ran for 155 yards and a touchdown.

"It was gratifying to see our offense get back on track and score some points," Bills center Kent Hull said. After averaging 38 points in their first four games, the Bills had averaged 13 in their next four before their game with Pittsburgh.

"It was not a pretty sight," Atlanta coach Jerry Glanville said after the second loss. "But we made it occupational suicide."

The Falcons turned over the ball 6 times, setting up 24 points for San Francisco. Steve Young threw touchdown passes to three different receivers, while cornerback Merton Hanks set up a touchdown with an interception and returned a punt 48 yards for another score.

The 49ers had to win to stay tied with the Saints, who won their fifth in a row, breezing past winless New England 31-14. The struggling Patriots played without coach Dick MacPherson, who was hospitalized for a serious intestinal disorder and replaced by assistant Dante Scarnecchia.

Saints quarterback Bobby Hebert passed for 3 touchdowns, including 9- and 39-yard tosses to Quinn Early. The defense held the Patriots to 6 first downs and 122 yards, had 5 sacks, and forced 4 turnovers. New England also lost quarterback Tom Hodson for several weeks with a broken thumb.

"When it rains it pours, and it's pouring now," Patriots nose tackle Tim Goad said.

All in all, it was a good week to be a division leader. While Buffalo and Pittsburgh went head-to-head, the other six division leaders or co-leaders won by an average margin of 26 points.

Nobody was more impressive than the 49ers. Still nursing a grudge for two Atlanta victories that knocked them out of the playoffs in 1991, they routed the Falcons for the second time in less than a month, 41-3. Three weeks earlier, the 49ers won 56-17 at San Francisco.

Lawrence of New York

On a day on which the Giants won their third in a row, stopping Green Bay 27-7, linebacker Carl Banks didn't feel like celebrating...or talking.

With 1:14 left in the third quarter, Banks and his teammates watched Lawrence Taylor—probably the greatest outside linebacker ever to play the game—leave the field for perhaps the last time. Taylor didn't walk off. He was carried off on a motorized cart after suffering a torn Achilles tendon.

"It's a little difficult right now for me to discuss it," said Banks, who played opposite Taylor since 1984, and who helped lift him onto the cart.

Chris Schwenk

Taylor was popular with his teammates.

The next day Banks talked about his fallen teammate, but he remained somber.

"I associate this with a cop losing his partner," he said. "We all have to compensate for the loss. It's a great loss."

A month earlier, Taylor, 33, said that the 1992 season, his twelfth in the NFL, would be his last. Because the injury ended his season, his career was over unless he were to change his mind.

It was a career in which he went to the Pro Bowl in each of his first 10 years and a career in which he had an NFL-leading 126½ sacks since 1982 (when sack totals were first officially kept; Taylor had an unofficial 9½ sacks in 1981, his rookie season).

In his storied career, Taylor often made plays that seemed impossible—such as the time five years earlier, when he suffered a pulled hamstring, but ignored the pain to run down the Eagles' Randall Cunningham for a game-saving tackle with 25 seconds left.

"He was the catalyst," former coach Bill Parcells told Mike Lupica of the New York *Daily News*. "He inspired the other players, he inspired the other coaches, he inspired me."

The Achilles tendon injury occurred after Taylor wheeled around Green Bay tackle Tootie Robbins and swatted down a pass thrown by Brett Favre. Taylor turned to try to catch the ball, and his ankle buckled as he landed. He fell to the turf in extreme pain.

"He was saying, 'I can't believe this...it can't be happening,'" defensive end Eric Dorsey said.

The older Giants, in particular, who had played with Taylor for years, who had won Super Bowls XXI and XXV with him, couldn't accept that he might never return.

"More and more, I would expect him to try to play next year," linebacker Pepper Johnson said. "I hope so. I wish I could retire before Lawrence. I don't want to experience playing without him."

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	7	2	0
Miami	7	2	0
Indianapolis	4	5	0
N.Y. Jets	2	7	0
New England	0	9	0
AFC Central			
Pittsburgh	6	3	0
Cleveland	5	4	0
Houston	5	4	0
Cincinnati	4	5	0
AFC West			
Denver	6	3	0
Kansas City	5	4	0
San Diego	4	5	0
L.A. Raiders	3	6	0
Seattle	1	8	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	8	1	0
Washington	6	3	0
N.Y. Giants	5	4	0
Philadelphia	5	4	0
Phoenix	3	6	0
NFC Central			
Minnesota	7	2	0
Chicago	4	5	0
Green Bay	3	6	0
Tampa Bay	3	6	0
Detroit	2	7	0
NFC West			
New Orleans	7	2	0
San Francisco	7	2	0
Atlanta	3	6	0
L.A. Rams	3	6	0

Scores

AFC
Buffalo 28, Pittsburgh 20
Cleveland 24, Houston 14
Denver 27, N.Y. Jets 16
Kansas City 16, San Diego 14
Miami 28, Indianapolis 0

NFC
Dallas 37, Detroit 3
Minnesota 35, Tampa Bay 7
N.Y. Giants 27, Green Bay 7
Phoenix 20, L.A. Rams 14
San Francisco 41, Atlanta 3

Interconference
Cincinnati 31, Chicago 28 (OT)
New Orleans 31, New England 14
Philadelphia 31, L.A. Raiders 10
Washington 16, Seattle 3

In Tampa, the Vikings scored on a pair of turnovers for the second straight week and blitzed Tampa Bay 35-7.

"We jumped on them fast," Vikings coach Dennis Green said. "We set the tempo on both sides of the ball."

On the defensive side, linebacker Carlos Jenkins carried a fumble 22 yards for one touchdown, and end Chris Doleman scored on a 27-yard interception return. A week earlier, Jenkins had scored on an interception return.

End Al Noga forced the two turnovers against Tampa Bay, sacking Steve DeBerg to force the fumble and pressuring DeBerg into the interception.

In Pontiac, the Cowboys hammered the Lions 37-3 to gain revenge for 1991, when Detroit beat Dallas twice (34-10 in the regular season and 38-6 in the playoffs). It was Detroit's worst home loss since 1964.

The Cowboys' Emmitt Smith ran for 3 touchdowns, while safety Thomas Everett had 2 interceptions. The Lions, who won the NFC Central Division title in 1991, fell to 2-7, despite 108 rushing yards by Barry Sanders.

At Denver, the Broncos won their eighth in a row at home as John Elway, calling the plays for the first time this season, led his team to a 27-16 victory over the Jets.

Elway threw an 80-yard touchdown pass to rookie Arthur Marshall, the longest regular-season completion of his career, and Broncos cornerback Wymon Henderson returned an interception 46 yards for a score.

Miami stayed tied with Buffalo in the AFC East, snapping a two-game losing streak in a 28-0 rout of the Colts. It marked consecutive shutout losses for Indianapolis.

The Dolphins controlled the ball for more than 38 minutes in rushing for 212 yards, including 107 yards and a touchdown by Mark Higgs. Dan Marino completed 22 of 28 passes, 2 of them for touchdowns.

Colts defensive end Steve Emtman, whose 90-yard interception return clinched his team's victory over Miami two weeks earlier, was lost for the season with a torn knee ligament.

The most surprising game of the week took place in Houston. Cleveland won for the fourth time in five weeks by stopping the Oilers 24-14. The Oilers were going the other way: It was their third loss in four games.

"It was frustrating," Oilers coach Jack Pardee said. "We were tentative and pressing. We could move the ball better in our sleep."

The Oilers may as well have been asleep. They punted on their first eight possessions and trailed 17-0 after three quarters. Warren Moon, still bothered by the concussion he suffered a week earlier, passed for only 70 yards before he was replaced by Cody Carlson.

The Browns' Mike Tomczak threw 46- and 17-yard touchdown passes to Leroy Hoard and Mark Bavaro, but a defensive play was the biggest of the game.

The Oilers trailed 10-0 in the last minute of the third quarter when Ernest Givins caught a short pass for a first down at the Cleveland 22. But cornerback Everson Walls knocked the ball loose, and safety Stevon Moore returned it 73 yards for a touchdown, the second-longest fumble return in Browns history.

In Chicago, the Bears, tumbling to a 4-5 record, lost a two-touchdown lead and fell to Cincinnati 31-28 in overtime. Jim Breech won the game with a 36-yard field goal, the ninth game-winning overtime kick of his career.

"This was as sweet a victory as I've ever been around," Bengals coach Dave Shula said.

The Bears led 21-7 at halftime and 28-14 late in the third quarter, after a 97-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Darren Lewis. But turnovers set up all three of Cincinnati's second-half touchdowns.

Rookie cornerback Leonard Wheeler's interception led to the tying score—Boomer Esiason's 23-yard pass to rookie Carl Pickens with 59 seconds left. Esiason threw 3 touchdown passes, while Harold Green ran for 117 yards.

In Philadelphia, slumping Randall Cunningham was benched for a game, but Jim McMahon threw a 42-yard scoring pass to Fred Barnett and directed a smooth 31-10 victory over the Raiders. Heath Sherman ran 30 yards for a touchdown and set up another with a 23-yard run. ☆

Players of the Week

AFC OFFENSE—**Thurman Thomas** had 185 total yards—155 rushing and 30 receiving—as Buffalo outscored the Steelers 28-20. He ran for 1 touchdown.

AFC DEFENSE—Linebacker **Derrick Thomas** had 4 sacks, 5 other tackles, 2 forced fumbles, a fumble recovery, and 4 quarterback pressures in the Chiefs' 16-14 victory over San Diego.

Derrick Thomas forced 2 fumbles.

Johnson scored twice against the Rams.

NFC OFFENSE—**Johnny Johnson** rushed for 91 yards and scored on 6- and 10-yard runs as Phoenix beat the Rams 20-14.

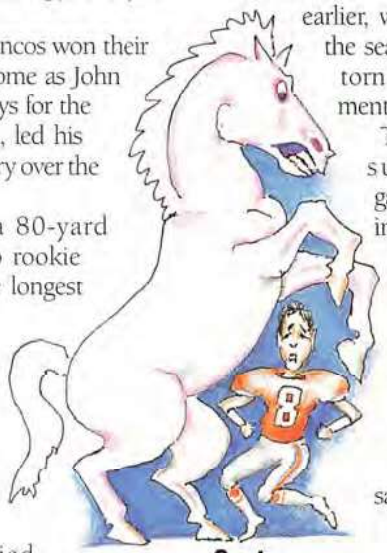
NFC DEFENSE—Linebacker **Mike Merriweather** had 13 tackles, including 12 solo efforts, to help the Vikings pound Tampa Bay 35-7.

Jim McMahon (9) replaced Randall Cunningham (right) to help the Eagles win.

Peter Brouillet

Jeff Taylor

Ali Jorge

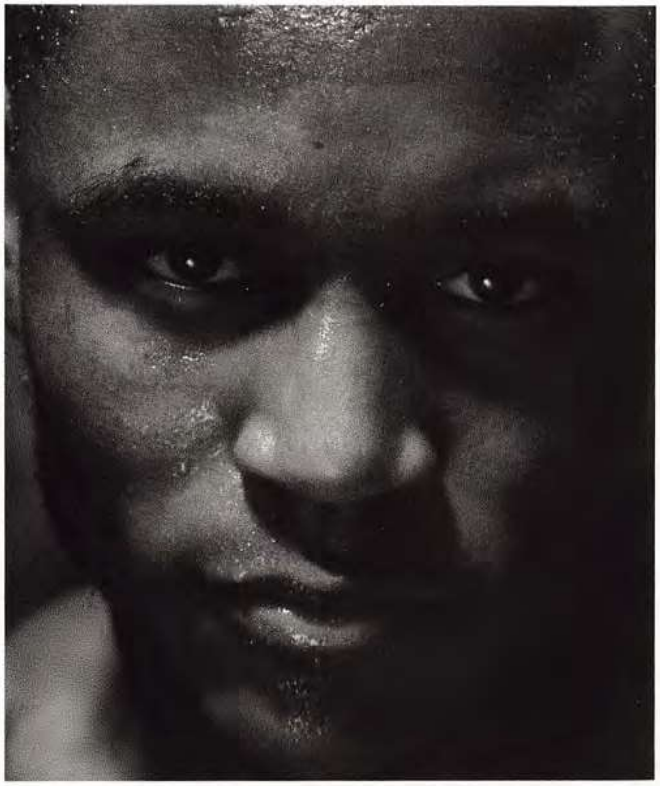


Quote

Denver quarterback **Tommy Maddox**, after nearly being run over by SunStar, the Broncos' mascot, as he left the field after an extra point:

"I've heard a lot of things on the field, but I've never heard, 'Look out for the horse.'"

Marv Rubin



BARRY SANDERS

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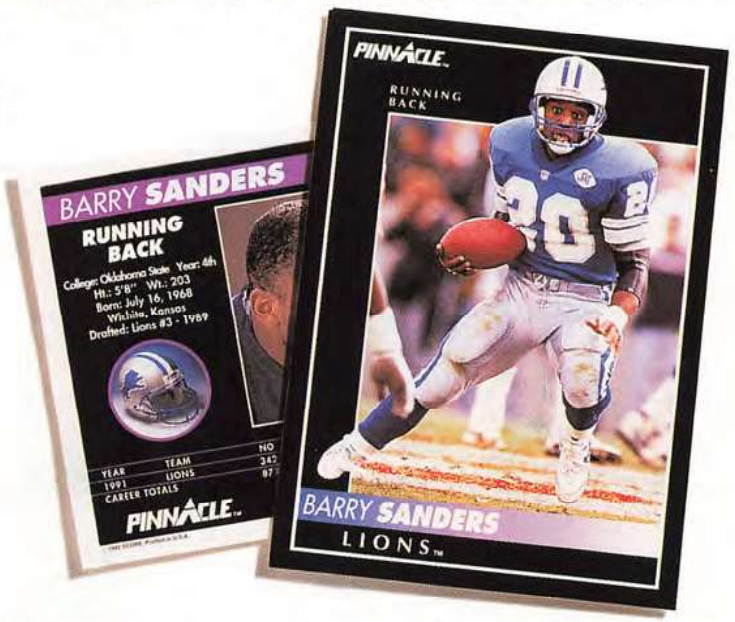

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WEEK 11

49ers, Bills Sneak Past Their Top Rivals, but for NFC East, It's Like a Visit to the Dentist as All Five Teams Lose

NOVEMBER 15

Steve Young was happy about the victory, but he knew he'd been in a dogfight.

"It was a typical 49ers-Saints game," he said. "Like pulling teeth."

Appropriately, Young led a two-minute drill that ended when he threw an 8-yard touchdown pass to tight end Brent Jones with 46 seconds left for a 21-20 victory that enabled the 49ers to break a first-place tie with New Orleans in the NFC West.

Dave Stock

The 49ers' Brent Jones celebrated his touchdown that beat Saints.

It was one of two battles for a division lead during an NFL weekend that was marked by last-minute finishes and close games. On Monday night, Buffalo beat Miami 26-20 to take command of the AFC East—and that, believe it or not, was one of the largest victory margins in week 11.

Ten of the 14 games were decided by 4 points or fewer, and all 10 of those encounters were decided in the final three minutes or in overtime.

It was such a crazy weekend that all five teams in the highly regarded NFC East, probably the NFL's toughest division, lost. That had never happened before.

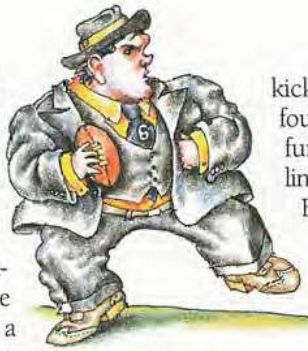
In San Francisco, the 49ers trailed until the last minute as the Saints, who had won five games in a row, took 10-0 and 20-7 leads. Bobby Hebert passed for 301 yards and 2 touchdowns, while the Saints' defense sacked Young 4 times.

But the 49ers' defense shut out the Saints in the fourth quarter, while Young led 65- and 74-yard touchdown drives, climaxing both of them with passes to Jones. Young also ran for 58 yards in the game. Ricky Watters gained 115 more.

The victory, which enabled San Francisco to sweep the season series, gave George Seifert a 50-13 record as coach. He reached 50 wins in fewer games than any other coach in NFL history.

In Miami, Dan Marino completed his first 11 passes, including 2 for touchdowns to Greg Baty and Mark Clayton, and the Dolphins jumped to a 14-3 lead over the Bills. But Buffalo came back to sack Marino 4 times, force 2 key turnovers, and win their battle for first place.

Buffalo trailed 17-13 at halftime, but took the lead with a 13-0 third quarter burst when Kenneth Davis ran for his second touchdown of the night, and Steve Christie kicked his third and fourth field goals. A fumble recovery by linebacker Cornelius Bennett and an interception by safety Henry Jones set up the field goals.



Mary Rubin

Quote

Pittsburgh quarterback **Bubby Brister**, after lobbing a 1-yard touchdown pass to tight end Tim Jorden to beat Detroit 17-14 with 2:50 left:

"Anybody in the stands could have made that throw."

In defeat, Marino passed for 321 yards.

"We'll meet again in the playoffs," Miami running back Mark Higgs said, "and we'll be ready for them."

Of the five losses by NFC East teams, two were major surprises. The Rams, who had lost 12 in a row on the road, survived a last-minute drive by Dallas to win 27-23 in Texas Stadium, snapping the Cowboys' 11-game winning streak at home. The Packers edged the Eagles 27-24, with Chris Jacke kicking 2 field goals in the last 1:31.

In Dallas, the Rams' Cleveland Gary ran for 110 yards, caught 7 passes from Jim Everett, and scored 2 touchdowns. But Kelvin Martin put the Cowboys ahead 23-21 late in the third quarter with a 74-yard punt return for a touchdown. The Rams responded by driving for 2 field goals by Tony Zendejas in the fourth quarter for a 27-23 lead.

Then, with time running out, Troy Aikman led Dallas to the Los Angeles 14. Aikman threw for the end zone twice in the final six seconds. Safety Anthony Newman broke up the first pass, and Aikman under heavy pressure, threw incomplete on the second.

"I'm emotionally drained," Rams coach Chuck Knox said later. "I'm very proud of them."

Packers coach Mike Holmgren was happy, too, after his team stunned the Eagles. Jacke's first field goal, from 31 yards, tied the game 24-24 with 1:31 left. His second, from 41 yards, won it as time ran out.

"Every win we have is a positive step forward for us,"

Players of the Week

Joel Zwink

Carrington was too much for the Browns.

AFC OFFENSE—In his first NFL start, **Scott Zolak** passed for 261 yards and 2 touchdowns to lead the Patriots to a 37-34 overtime victory over the Colts.

AFC DEFENSE—Nickel back **Darren Carrington** returned an interception 69 yards to set up a touchdown, downed a punt on the 1-yard line, forced a fumble to break up a last-minute drive, and had 4 tackles and 2 passes defensed to help the Chargers edge the Browns 14-13.

NFC OFFENSE—**Steve Young** scored on a 10-yard run and threw 2 touchdown passes to Brent Jones, including the game-winner with 46 seconds left, as the 49ers overcame the Saints 21-20.

NFC DEFENSE—Safety **Scott Case** made 10 tackles and broke up two drives with a fumble recovery and an interception as Atlanta beat Phoenix 20-17 on Norm Johnson's last-minute field goal.

Rob Brown

Young led the 49ers past the Saints.

APEX ONE™

OFFICIAL APPAREL AND
FOOTWEAR OF THE NFL

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	8	2	0	Dallas	8	2	0
Miami	7	3	0	Philadelphia	6	4	0
Indianapolis	4	6	0	Washington	6	4	0
N.Y. Jets	3	7	0	N.Y. Giants	5	5	0
New England	1	9	0	Phoenix	3	7	0
AFC Central				**NFC Central**			
Pittsburgh	7	3	0	Minnesota	7	3	0
Houston	6	4	0	Chicago	4	6	0
Cleveland	5	5	0	Green Bay	4	6	0
Cincinnati	4	6	0	Tampa Bay	4	6	0
AFC West				Detroit	2	8	0
Denver	7	3	0	**NFC West**			
Kansas City	6	4	0	San Francisco	8	2	0
San Diego	5	5	0	New Orleans	7	3	0
L.A. Raiders	4	6	0	Atlanta	4	6	0
Seattle	1	9	0	L.A. Rams	4	6	0

Scores

AFC

Buffalo 26, Miami 20
L.A. Raiders 20, Seattle 3
New England 37, Indianapolis 34 (OT)
N.Y. Jets 17, Cincinnati 14
San Diego 14, Cleveland 13

NFC

Atlanta 20, Phoenix 17
Green Bay 27, Philadelphia 24
L.A. Rams 27, Dallas 23
Tampa Bay 20, Chicago 17
San Francisco 21, New Orleans 20

Interconference

Denver 27, N.Y. Giants 13
Kansas City 35, Washington 16
Houston 17, Minnesota 13
Pittsburgh 17, Detroit 14

Holmgren said. "The players are starting to believe in themselves, and we're getting better."

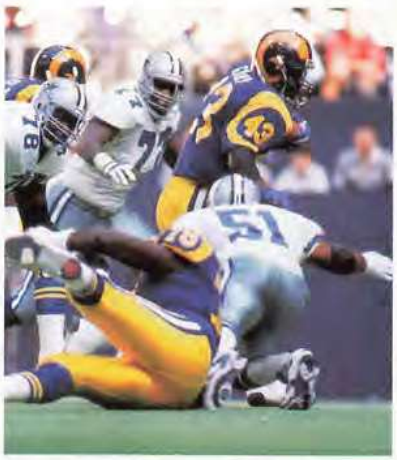
For Philadelphia, Heath Sherman scored on a 17-yard run and a 75-yard pass from Randall Cunningham, but Sherman's fumble on the Green Bay 12 was returned to the 27 by Packers safety LeRoy Butler, and a 34-yard pass by Brett Favre to Sterling Sharpe set up the tying field goal.

On the next series, Green Bay defensive end Don Davey stripped Herschel Walker of the ball, and linebacker Johnny Holland recovered on the Eagles' 23 with 43 seconds left. That set up the winning kick.

Denver and Kansas City had the most decisive victories of the week, rolling past the NFC East's Giants and Redskins.

In Denver, John Elway threw a 51-yard touchdown pass to Mark Jackson and led his team to a 14-0 lead in the first quarter, but he had to leave midway through the second quarter with a bruised passing shoulder. Rookie Tommy Maddox came on to guide the Broncos to 2 field goals and a touchdown on their first four series of the second half, and Denver won 27-13.

In Kansas City, the Chiefs bolted to a 28-0 halftime lead over the injury-riddled Redskins and went on to win 35-16. Dave Krieg passed for 302 yards, including 44- and 35-yard scoring strikes to Tim Barnett, and the Chiefs also had 4 sacks, including 3 by defensive end Neil Smith.



James D. Smith

Cleveland Gary ran for 110 yards to help the Rams surprise Dallas 27-23.

Washington lost starting cornerback Martin Mayhew with a broken arm. He became the fourteenth Redskin this season to go on injured reserve.

In Indianapolis, the Colts lost quarterback Jeff George for about three weeks with a cracked bone in the thumb of his throwing hand and also lost their game to New England in overtime, 37-34. It was the Patriots' first victory of the season.

First-time starter Scott Zolak passed for 2 touchdowns and led New England on a 67-yard drive to Charlie Baumann's game-tying, 44-yard field goal as time ran out. Then Baumann's 18-yard kick in overtime won it.

Safety Jerome Henderson set up the decisive kick with the Patriots' third interception off George. Cornerback David Pool and linebacker Chris Singleton returned earlier steals 41 and 82 yards for touchdowns.

In defeat, the Colts' Anthony Johnson had a 240-yard day, rushing for 77 yards and catching 7 passes for 163 more.

In Cleveland, the Chargers ignored falling snow and temperatures in the 20s to win their fifth game in six tries, 14-13 over the Browns.

San Diego prevailed on Stan Humphries's 45-yard touchdown pass to Anthony Miller with 2:05 left, then held off a Browns' rally as Nickel back Darren Carrington forced a fumble by Eric Metcalf that was recovered on the Chargers' 38 by safety Stanley Richard with 52 seconds left. ☆

Moon Down, Oilers Aren't

It was an emotional day for the Houston Oilers. Mired in a slump, they rallied to claim an important 17-13 victory over the Minnesota Vikings. Sadly, in the process, they also lost their Pro Bowl quarterback.

Three days before his thirty-sixth birthday, Warren Moon fractured his upper left arm and figured to be out three to six weeks.

"I'm disappointed because I think the team is going to turn the corner and I won't be a part of it," Moon said. "Obviously, I'm going to work as hard as I can to get back as quickly as I can."

Trailing the Vikings 13-10 late in the fourth quarter, the Oilers, who had lost three of their last four games, desperately needed a victory. And they got it when Moon and his replacement, Cody Carlson, combined on an 80-yard drive to the winning touchdown—Lorenzo White's 1-yard run with 48 seconds left.

Moon had been sacked 5 times and had been pounded on all day, but he kept the decisive drive alive by breaking two tackles and scrambling 5 yards for a critical first down on the Minnesota 21 with 3:03 left. But, as he lunged for the first down, he was smashed by safety Vencie Glenn and suffered the injury.

"I wanted us to score a touchdown to win," Moon said. "I didn't want a field goal to send the game into overtime because so many things can happen in overtime. That's why I was running so aggressively for the first down."

Two weeks earlier, Moon had suffered a concussion against Pittsburgh. One week earlier, he had suffered a pinched nerve in his neck against Cleveland.

"If they gave an award for banged-up player of the month, I'd probably win," he said.

Carlson replaced Moon against Pittsburgh and Cleveland, too, throwing a total of 3 touchdown passes and coming within a missed last-second field goal of beating the Steelers.

When he took over against Minnesota, Carlson drove the Oilers 21 yards to the winning touchdown, setting it up with an 8-yard pass to White after a holding penalty had nullified his 4-yard touchdown pass. For the score, the 29-year-old quarterback audibilized to White, who ran wide to the right.

"We were going to run a quarterback sneak, but the defense was pretty jammed in there," Carlson said.

Ironically, on the day he got hurt, Moon became the fourteenth NFL quarterback to pass for 30,000 yards. But now it was Cody Carlson's team.

"I'm getting older in a hurry," Carlson said.

Injuries were frustrating Moon.

John Makely

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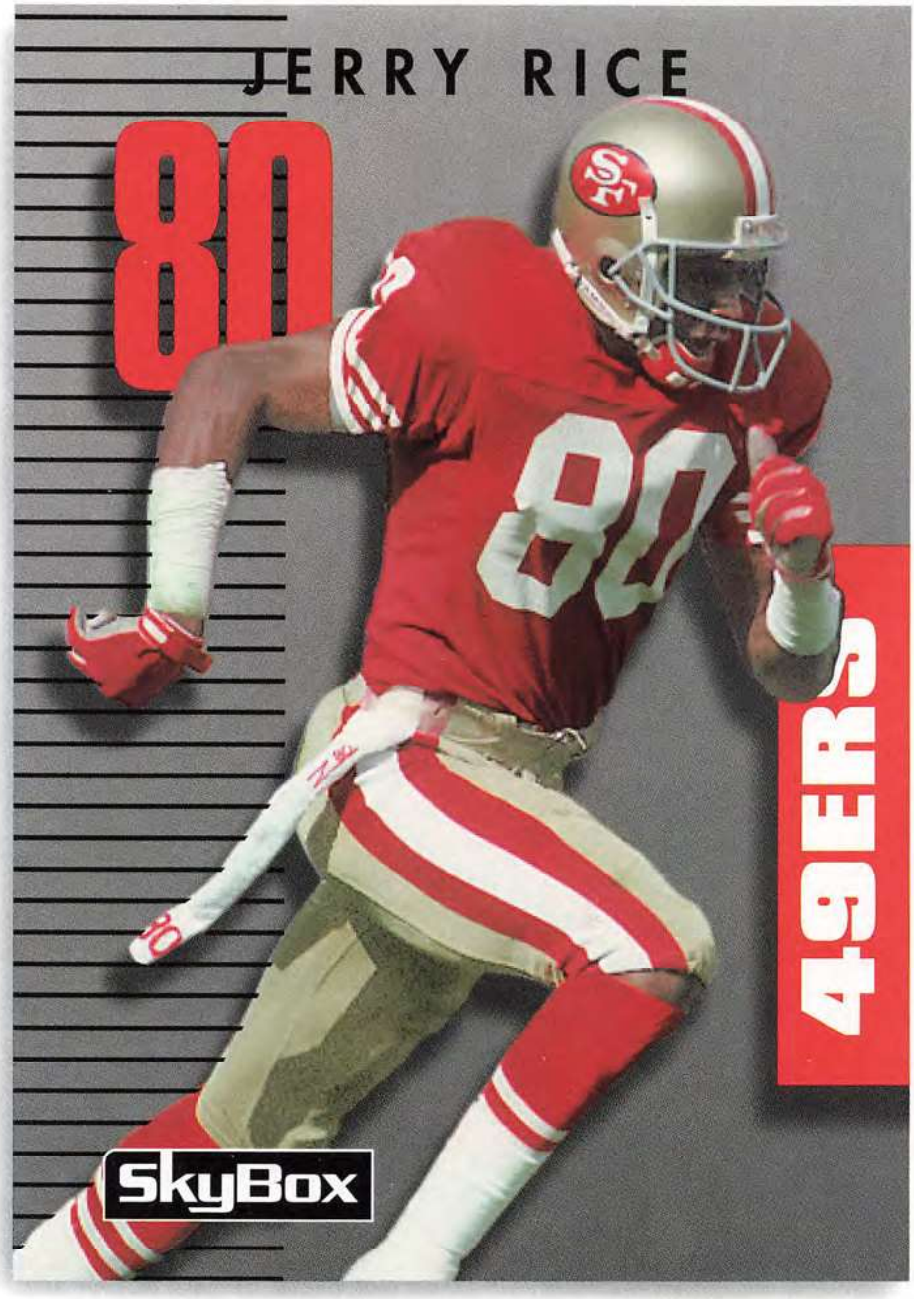

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PRIMETIME™ Team Players

WEEK 12

Streaking Bills Rout Atlanta, Share NFL's Best Record with 49ers, Cowboys

NOVEMBER 22

Jerry Glanville was impressed.

"I don't think I've ever seen the Buffalo Bills look any better," the Falcons' coach said after the Bills jumped to a 38-0 lead and smashed Atlanta 41-14. "They might be the class of the league right now."

At the moment at least, Buffalo was the hottest team in the NFL. After routing Atlanta, the Bills had won five in a row, and, for the season, they were an AFC-best 9-2. That tied them with the NFC's 49ers and Cowboys for the best record in the NFL, as both San Francisco and Dallas also won in week 12.

But Buffalo may have been the NFL's most impressive team, particularly on offense. Although Jim Kelly threw 2 touchdown passes, he spent most of his time handing the ball to Thurman Thomas and Kenneth Davis, and they knew what to do with it.

David Drapkin

Kenneth Davis ran for 181 yards as Buffalo blitzed Atlanta.

Thomas (103 yards) and Davis (147) both rushed for more than 100 yards in the first half alone as the Bills scored 5 touchdowns in the first 16 minutes. While Thomas sat out the second half, Davis kept going, finishing with 181 yards, including touchdown runs of 1 and 64 yards. Davis also set up a field goal with a 51-yard run.

The Bills rushed for a total of 315 yards, the most ever allowed by Atlanta.

In Anaheim, the 49ers were leading the Rams 13-10 midway through the fourth quarter when Steve Young threw a 42-yard touchdown pass to Jerry Rice. San Francisco went on to win 27-10. It was the ninety-ninth touchdown catch of Rice's career, one behind Steve Largent's NFL record.

"You've got to play your butt off every play against him," said Rams safety Anthony Newman, who was beaten on the touchdown catch. "You can shut him down for three quarters, and then he hits a home run."

While Rice went deep, Ricky Watters went short, scoring twice on 3-yard runs, and slicing through the Rams for 163 rushing yards.

In Tempe, Arizona, the Cowboys rebounded from their surprising loss to the Rams in week 11 by holding Phoenix to 149 yards and 9 first downs to defeat the Cardinals 16-10. Troy Aikman threw 7- and 37-yard touchdown passes to Jay Novacek and Alvin Harper, respectively.

Phoenix led 7-0 in the first quarter, after Johnny Bailey's 65-yard punt return set up a short touchdown pass by Chris Chandler. But Chandler went out later in the quarter with bruised ribs, and former starter Timm Rosenbach was held to 80 passing yards.

In Miami, the Dolphins stayed on the heels of the Bills in the AFC East when Pete Stoyanovich kicked a 52-yard field goal—his fourth of the day—to upend Houston 19-16 with two seconds left.

"The guy has been doing this since he's been with us—hitting the pressure kicks," Miami coach Don Shula said.

Stoyanovich got a chance to win the game because Houston's Al Del Greco, who had kicked 3 field goals earlier in the

Putting the 'Charge' Back in Chargers

From a San Diego Charger, it was a remarkable statement.

"We're a contender for the playoffs," cornerback Gill Byrd said. "I'm not afraid to say it."

The Chargers? The franchise that had managed one winning season since 1982, their last playoff year? The team that started *this season* 0-4?

You better believe it.

First-year coach Bobby Ross had turned the team around.

Revived by new coach Bobby Ross, who led Georgia Tech to a share of the national championship in 1990, San Diego had won six of its last seven games. At 6-5, the team was above .500 for the first time since 1987.

"We've been working hard and it's paying off," running back Ronnie Harmon said. "It's getting exciting around here."

Defensive coordinator Bill Arnsparger, hired by Ross shortly after he got the job, was a big reason for the success. After 11 games, San Diego ranked third in the NFL in defense and had never fallen lower than sixth. In rushing defense, the Chargers ranked first.

In the team's latest victory, a 29-14 blitz of Tampa Bay, San Diego sacked Vinny Testaverde 6 times, 3 by rookie defensive end Chris Mims, including once for a safety.

"Their front four did some nice things," a frustrated Testaverde said in admiration later.

After 11 games, Mims had 8 sacks, while end Leslie O'Neal had 9½. Pro Bowl linebacker Junior Seau led the team in tackles. Free safety Stanley Richard, a first-round draft choice in 1991, was second.

Meanwhile, the offense was prospering after a slow start, despite the loss of leading rusher Rod Bernstine for six to eight weeks with a dislocated shoulder in the sixth game. Quarterback Stan Humphries had completed 60.5 percent of his passes for 11 touchdowns in the last seven games.

"He's a competitor, and you can see the effect he's had on people," said Chargers general manager Bobby Beathard, who acquired Humphries from Washington in August. "He also has something I think all good quarterbacks have–he's a little bit of a risk-taker."

The adventuresome Humphries particularly liked to throw to Harmon, who led the team in receiving (54 catches), and wide receiver Anthony Miller (53 catches), who led the AFC in receiving yards (801). And, with Bernstine out, he was only too happy to give the ball to 248-pound Marion Butts, who ran for 104 yards against Tampa Bay.

Paul Spinelli/NFLP

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	9	2	0
Miami	8	3	0
Indianapolis	4	7	0
N.Y. Jets	3	8	0
New England	2	9	0
AFC Central			
Pittsburgh	8	3	0
Houston	6	5	0
Cleveland	5	6	0
Cincinnati	4	7	0
AFC West			
Denver	7	4	0
Kansas City	7	4	0
San Diego	6	5	0
L.A. Raiders	5	6	0
Seattle	1	10	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	9	2	0
Philadelphia	7	4	0
Washington	6	5	0
N.Y. Giants	5	6	0
Phoenix	3	8	0
NFC Central			
Minnesota	8	3	0
Green Bay	5	6	0
Chicago	4	7	0
Tampa Bay	4	7	0
Detroit	3	8	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	9	2	0
New Orleans	8	3	0
Atlanta	4	7	0
L.A. Rams	4	7	0

Scores

AFC
Kansas City 24, Seattle 14
L.A. Raiders 24, Denver 0
Miami 19, Houston 16
New England 24, New York Jets 3
Pittsburgh 30, Indianapolis 14

NFC
Dallas 16, Phoenix 10
Green Bay 17, Chicago 3
New Orleans 20, Washington 3
Philadelphia 47, New York Giants 34
San Francisco 27, L.A. Rams 10

Interconference
Buffalo 41, Atlanta 14
Detroit 19, Cincinnati 13
Minnesota 17, Cleveland 13
San Diego 29, Tampa Bay 14

day, missed a 41-yard attempt with 1:49 left. On the play before the missed field goal, the Oilers' Leonard Harris dropped Cody Carlson's pass in the end zone.

Dan Marino then led a 42-yard drive to the winning kick, completing all 5 of his pass attempts.

Chris Schwenk

The Eagles' Vai Sikahema burned the Giants with this 87-yard punt return.

Bill Baptist

Miami players mobbed Pete Stoyanovich when his 52-yard field goal beat Houston.

The wildest game of the week took place in the Meadowlands, where the Eagles, trailing the Giants 20-6 in the second quarter, scored 34 straight points in less than 17 minutes and eased to a 47-34 victory. It was the Eagles' eighth win in their last nine games against the Giants.

Philadelphia's 5-touchdown deluge, including 3 scores by the defense and special teams, started with linebacker Seth Joyner's 43-yard interception return and ended with Vai Sikahema's 87-yard punt return, the longest in Eagles history. In between, linebacker Ken Rose blocked a punt and carried the ball 3 yards for another touchdown.

"That's what you call everybody playing together," said Eagles quarterback Randall Cunningham, who threw 2 touchdown passes. "We've got luck back on our side, and we're ready to go."

The Eagles also had Heath Sherman on their side, and he ran for 109 yards including a 30-yard scoring run, while defensive end Reggie White had 3½ sacks. New York's David Meggett caught a touchdown pass from Jeff Hostetler and returned a kickoff 92 yards for a touchdown.

In Minneapolis, the NFC Central-leading Vikings rallied to beat Cleveland 17-13 as cornerback Audray McMillian made a diving interception, then jumped up and returned the ball 25 yards for the winning touchdown with 9:05 left.

The game-winner was McMillian's third interception of the game, which tied the club record. It also was the seventh touchdown scored by Minnesota's defense this season and sixth in the last four games.

"I think our defense expects to score touchdowns," Vikings coach Dennis Green said.

The Saints' defense claimed another victim, too, as New Orleans won its sixth game in the last seven by sacking Mark Rypien 4 times and stifling the Redskins 20-3. Bobby Hebert completed 14 of 18 passes, including a 5-yard touchdown pass to Quinn Early.

In the Los Angeles Coliseum, Denver's John Elway had to watch from the sideline with a bruised shoulder, and the Raiders took advantage of his absence to shut down the Broncos 24-0.

Jay Schroeder threw 3 touchdown passes, Eric Dickerson, who became the NFL's second-leading all-time rusher earlier in the season, ran for 107 yards, and the Raiders' defense gave backup quarterback Tommy Maddox a hard time.

Cornerback Terry McDaniel intercepted 2 passes, and returned each of them 67 yards, the first setting up a touchdown. The Raiders also sacked Maddox 3 times, and the rookie quarterback fumbled 3 times, losing 1.

"Maddox has the face of a little cherub," Raiders defensive end Howie Long said. "He looked like my paper boy. I wanted to tip him."

In Seattle, the Chiefs moved into a first-place tie with the Broncos in the AFC West by beating the Seahawks on three big plays.

Barry Word ran 44 yards for a touchdown, rookie cornerback Dale Carter carried a punt 86 yards for another, and defensive end Neil Smith returned an interception 22 yards for a third touchdown.

Seattle's Chris Warren rushed for 154 yards and a touchdown, but the Seahawks still lost their eighth game in a row, 24-14.

At Cincinnati, Barry Sanders ran for 151 yards and a touchdown to break the Lions' career rushing record in Detroit's 19-13 victory over the Bengals. Sanders finished the game with 5,202 yards, nearly 100 more than Billy Sims's 5,106.

The Lions were tough on defense, too, holding the Bengals to 95 yards. ☆

Players of the Week

AFC OFFENSE—**Barry Foster** rushed for 168 yards, scored on 20- and 13-yard runs, and caught a 42-yard pass as the Steelers beat the Colts 30-14. It was Foster's eighth 100-yard game of the season, a club record.

AFC DEFENSE—In his team's 19-13 loss to Detroit, Bengals linebacker **James Francis** returned 1 interception 66 yards for a touchdown, another 41 yards to set up a field goal, and also had a forced fumble, a deflection, 2 sacks, and 5 other tackles.

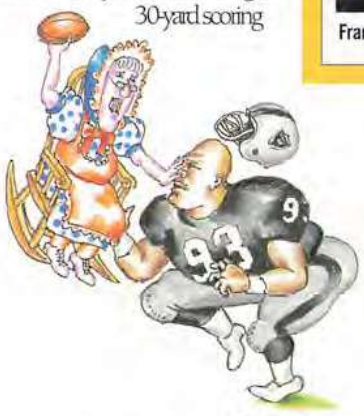
Francis scored on an interception return.

Dave Stock

Watters had 163 yards against the Rams.

NFC OFFENSE—**Ricky Watters** rushed for 163 yards and scored on a pair of 3-yard runs as the 49ers stopped the Rams 27-10.

NFC DEFENSE—Cornerback **Audray McMillian** had 8 tackles and 3 interceptions, returning the last one 25 yards for the winning touchdown, to help rally the Vikings over the Browns 17-13.



Marv Rubin

QUOTE

Defensive end **Greg Townsend**, explaining why the Raiders were so aggressive on defense, even though Denver played without injured quarterback John Elway:

"You couldn't take them lightly if Elway's grandmother was at quarterback."

Brian Spurlock

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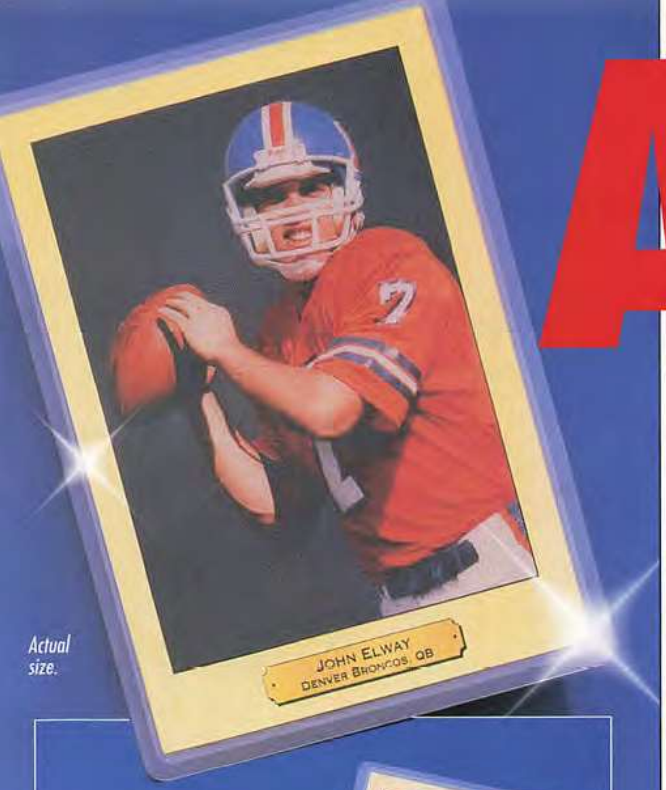

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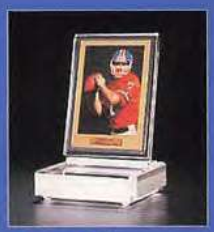

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500	0001 to 0500		Jim Kelly Silver 1 Ounce	117.50	
500	0001 to 0500		Jim Kelly Platinum 1 Gram	127.50	
500	0001 to 0500		Warren Moon Gold 1 Gram	122.50	
500	0001 to 0500		Warren Moon Silver 1 Ounce	117.50	
500	0001 to 0500		Warren Moon Platinum 1 Gram	127.50	

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WEEK 13

Surprising Steelers and Vikings Close in on Division Titles; 49ers Already in Playoffs

NOVEMBER 26

Players of the Week

AFC OFFENSE—**Cody Carlson** passed for 338 yards and 1 touchdown and drove the Oilers 83 yards for the game-winning score (Lorenzo White's 8-yard run with 1:17 left) as Houston rallied to beat Detroit 24-21 on Thanksgiving Day.

AFC DEFENSE—Linebacker **David Little** had 3 sacks, 2 other tackles, a forced fumble, and a pass deflection in the Steelers' 21-9 romp past the Bengals.

NFC OFFENSE—**Jerry Rice** caught 8 passes for 133 yards, including one of 22 yards for a touchdown, in the 49ers' 20-14 victory over the Eagles. His scoring catch was the 100th of his career, tying the NFL record of former Seattle wide receiver Steve Largent.

NFC DEFENSE—Safety **Brad Edwards** intercepted 3 passes, returning one 53 yards for a touchdown, stopping a drive with another, and setting up a touchdown with his third to lead the Redskins past the Cardinals 41-3. He also made 10 tackles and forced a fumble.

Joe Giblin

Carlson rallied the Oilers.

Scott Cunningham

Edwards had 3 interceptions.

In 1991, the Steelers struggled to a 7-9 record. The Vikings weren't much better at 8-8.

With a month left in the 1992 regular season, they were a combined 18-6 and, clearly, the NFL's two most surprising teams.

Pittsburgh, under new coach Bill Cowher, shared the best record in the AFC (9-3) with Buffalo.

In the NFC, Minnesota, under new coach Dennis Green, also was 9-3, trailing only the 10-2 49ers and Cowboys.

Both teams also were close to clinching division titles.

"We're looking good," Steelers Pro Bowl cornerback Rod Woodson said.

"We're not in the playoffs yet," Green said, "but we've made a major step toward the playoffs."

Paul Spinelli/NFLP

In his first NFL start, Sean Salisbury led the Vikings to a 31-17 victory over the Rams.

The 49ers, meanwhile, had done more than take a step. They were in the playoffs, becoming the first team this season to earn a berth when they outlasted the Eagles 20-14. It was San Francisco's ninth playoff appearance in 10 years and tenth successive 10-victory season.

In Cincinnati, where the Steelers kept rolling along with a 21-9 victory over the Bengals, Barry Foster, the NFL's leading rusher, ran for 102 yards and 2 touchdowns and broke two of Franco Harris's Pittsburgh records.

With 1,319 yards at the end of the game, Foster had surpassed Harris's single-season rushing mark of 1,246. With 1,587 yards rushing and receiving, he had surpassed Franco's record of 1,477 from scrimmage. The 100-yard game was Foster's ninth of the season—extending his own Pittsburgh record.

"It's a new era starting," Foster said. "We've been trying to shed the image of the Steelers in the seventies for quite some time. To have my name above Franco's is a great honor."

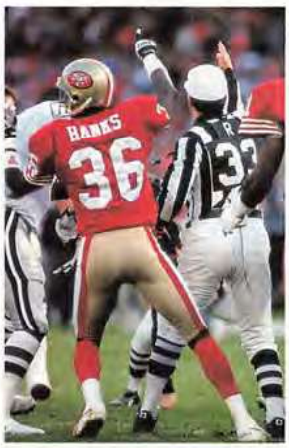
Not so honored was Bengals rookie quarterback David Klingler, who made his first NFL start and was sacked 10 times, a Steelers' defensive record.

In Anaheim, the Vikings benched slumping Rich Gannon and gave fourth-year quarterback Sean Salisbury his first NFL start. Salisbury was up to the task, passing for 238 yards and directing a 31-17 victory over the Rams.

"It was a dream come true to start today," Salisbury said. "My mind is twenty-nine years old, but I feel like I'm twenty-two."

Helping him feel young was Terry Allen who rushed for 88 yards and 2 touchdowns and caught 10 passes for another 110 yards. Included in Allen's receptions was a 36-yard touchdown pass from running back Keith Henderson.

Happy about the win, the Vikings were unhappy about the loss of leading receiver Cris Carter (53 catches), out for at least the rest of the regular season with a broken collarbone.



Dave Strock

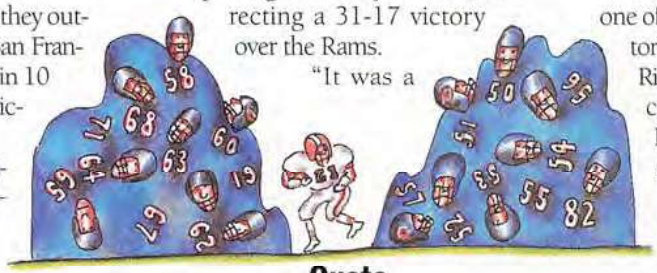
The 49ers' Merton Hanks cheered when the Eagles barely missed a first down.

Although the 49ers upended the Eagles, they lost star running back Ricky Watters with a bruised shoulder in the first half. Steve Young passed for 342 yards and 2 touchdowns to help San Francisco to its fourth win in a row.

Young's touchdown passes included one of 43 yards to Dexter Carter and a historic 22-yard collaboration with Jerry Rice. It was the 100th touchdown catch of Rice's career, tying Steve Largent's NFL record. "It felt special," Rice said.

In the game's final moments, the Eagles made a strong bid for the victory. From the San Francisco 25, Randall Cunningham, who already had passed for 2 touchdowns, fired a fourth-and-15 pass to Calvin Williams, who made an outstanding catch close to the San Francisco 10.

The ball was spotted, the distance was



Marv Rubin

Quote

Cleveland's Eric Metcalf describing his 75-yard punt return for a touchdown in a 27-14 victory over the Bears:

"It's like they parted the Red Sea and just let me run through it."

Here's the snap.

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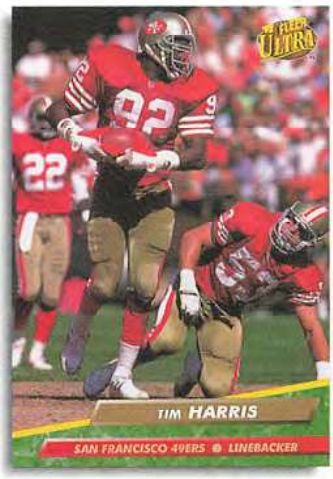

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measured...and the frustrated Eagles "were an inch and a half short" of a first down, according to referee Howard Roe. San Francisco took back the ball with 36 seconds left.

"They say it's a game of inches," 49ers safety Dana Hall said. "It was a millimeter today."

It was a game of defense in New Orleans, where the Saints, 7-1 in their last eight games, sacked Dan Marino 5 times and scored on a fumble and an interception to beat the Dolphins 24-13.

The game was tied 10-10 in the third quarter when linebacker Pat Swilling slapped the ball out of Marino's hands, and end Robert (Pig) Goff scooped it up and returned it 28 yards for a touchdown. In the fourth quarter, cornerback Vince Buck returned an interception 34 yards for another touchdown.

Week 13 had a pair of surprises, too, as the Colts and Seahawks both won 16-13 on overtime field goals after both trailed 13-3 in the fourth quarter.

The Colts, who had lost to Buffalo six successive times, including 38-0 in September, stunned the Bills on Dean Biasucci's 40-yard field goal with 3:51 elapsed in overtime. Biasucci, who converted a 52-yard effort early in the game, connected from 23 yards out with 1:07 remaining in regulation to tie the score at 13.

Jack Trudeau, replacing injured Jeff George, passed for 337 yards and rallied the Colts with the help of cornerback Tony Stargell, whose late, fourth-quarter interception set up the tying field goal.

In Seattle, the Seahawks, who had lost eight games in a row, caught the Broncos without injured quarterback John Elway and beat them on John Kasay's 32-yard field goal with 11:10 elapsed in the extra period. Kasay was thankful for a second chance after missing from 33 yards out earlier in overtime.

Stan Gelbaugh came off the bench in the fourth quarter to rally the Seahawks from their 10-point deficit. Seattle scored on a field goal by Kasay with 5:20 remaining and Gelbaugh's 3-yard pass to Brian Blades as regulation time ran out.

Now 0-2 without Elway, the Broncos fell into a tie for second in the AFC West with San Diego.

The Chargers rolled past the Raiders 27-3, despite 100 rushing yards in the first half (and 103 total) by Los Angeles's Eric Dickerson. Four Raiders drives into San Diego territory in the first half earned only a field goal, and two of them ended in turnovers that led to Chargers touchdowns and a 21-3 halftime lead.

San Diego running back Ronnie Harmon set up 2 touchdowns, the first with a short pass from Stan Humphries that he carried 45 yards, the second with a 33-yard run.

At the Meadowlands, the AFC West-leading Chiefs won their fourth game in a row, beating the Jets 23-7. Dave Krieg completed 17 of 21 passes for 222 yards and 2 touchdowns. But few people were talking about the game.

Trying to sack Krieg, Jets defensive end Dennis Byrd collided with tackle Scott Mersereau, his teammate, and suffered a broken neck.

A few days after the game, Byrd underwent surgery to stabilize his spinal cord, but his legs were paralyzed, although he had sensation in them, and his arms were partially paralyzed. Doctors were hopeful he would walk again, but couldn't predict how much he would recover.

"It's like time stands still," Jets quarterback Ken O'Brien said after the game, describing the moment of the injury. "You say it can't happen, but it happens." ☆

Jim Turner

The Jets' Dennis Byrd was partially paralyzed after suffering a broken neck.

Doing the Packers a Favre-r

Vernon J. Biever

Green Bay's Brett Favre

Last February, Packers general manager Ron Wolf traded a first-round draft choice to Atlanta for quarterback Brett Favre—a second-round choice by the Falcons in 1991 who had thrown 5 passes as a rookie.

At the time, some people wondered if Wolf knew what he was doing.

"We caught a lot of flak for taking a third-string quarterback [at Atlanta] with a first-round pick," Wolf says now. "But I felt all along he was the best player in the draft [in 1991]. In the *entire* draft."

Strong words for the thirty-third player drafted that year. But, one month from the end of the season, Wolf and new coach Mike Holmgren, who also wanted to trade for Favre (rhymes with carve), had been vindicated. The 23-year-old quarterback was perhaps the most exciting new signal caller in the NFL.

Defensive coordinator Ron Lynn of the Bengals, one of his victims, compared him to Denver's John Elway.

"He has that kind of confidence," Lynn said.

Since replacing injured Don Majkowski early in the third game, Favre had led the Packers, a 4-12 team in 1991, to six victories in 10 games.

The fun all began in the third game, when the Packers lined up on their 8-yard line with 1:07 and no time outs left in the fourth quarter. They trailed Cincinnati 23-17 and were staring at their third successive loss.

But Favre marched his team 92 yards in 54 seconds, firing a 35-yard touchdown pass to Kitrick Taylor with 13 seconds left. Then he held for the winning extra point as Green Bay won 24-23.

"I couldn't bear to look," Favre said of his winning touchdown pass. "I just closed my eyes and waited for the crowd to let me know."

A month later, when Majkowski's injured ankle had healed, Holmgren let Favre know he would remain the starter.

Now the young man ranked tenth in the NFL in passing efficiency (85.2). He had completed 63.5 percent of his passes for 2,483 yards and 12 touchdowns, and owned the league's third-lowest interception percentage (2.2). Sterling Sharpe, his favorite receiver, led the NFL in receiving with 82 catches.

In addition, Favre had shown tremendous self-confidence, a strong arm, a quick release, and a lot of courage.

He had led the Packers to successive victories over the Eagles, Bears, and Buccaneers, despite suffering a separated left shoulder in the first quarter of the win over the Eagles.

"He's a special individual," Wolf said.

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	9	3	0
Miami	8	4	0
Indianapolis	5	7	0
N.Y. Jets	3	9	0
New England	2	10	0
AFC Central			
Pittsburgh	9	3	0
Houston	7	5	0
Cleveland	6	6	0
Cincinnati	4	8	0
AFC West			
Kansas City	8	4	0
Denver	7	5	0
San Diego	7	5	0
L.A. Raiders	5	7	0
Seattle	2	10	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	10	2	0
Philadelphia	7	5	0
Washington	7	5	0
N.Y. Giants	5	7	0
Phoenix	3	9	0
NFC Central			
Minnesota	9	3	0
Green Bay	6	6	0
Chicago	4	8	0
Tampa Bay	4	8	0
Detroit	3	9	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	10	2	0
New Orleans	9	3	0
Atlanta	5	7	0
L.A. Rams	4	8	0

Scores

AFC

Indianapolis 16, Buffalo 13 (OT)
Kansas City 23, N.Y. Jets 7
San Diego 27, L.A. Raiders 3
Pittsburgh 21, Cincinnati 9
Seattle 16, Denver 13 (OT)

NFC

Dallas 30, N.Y. Giants 3
Green Bay 19, Tampa Bay 14
Minnesota 31, L.A. Rams 17
San Francisco 20, Philadelphia 14
Washington 41, Phoenix 3

Interconference

Atlanta 34, New England 0
Cleveland 27, Chicago 14
Houston 24, Detroit 21
New Orleans 24, Miami 13

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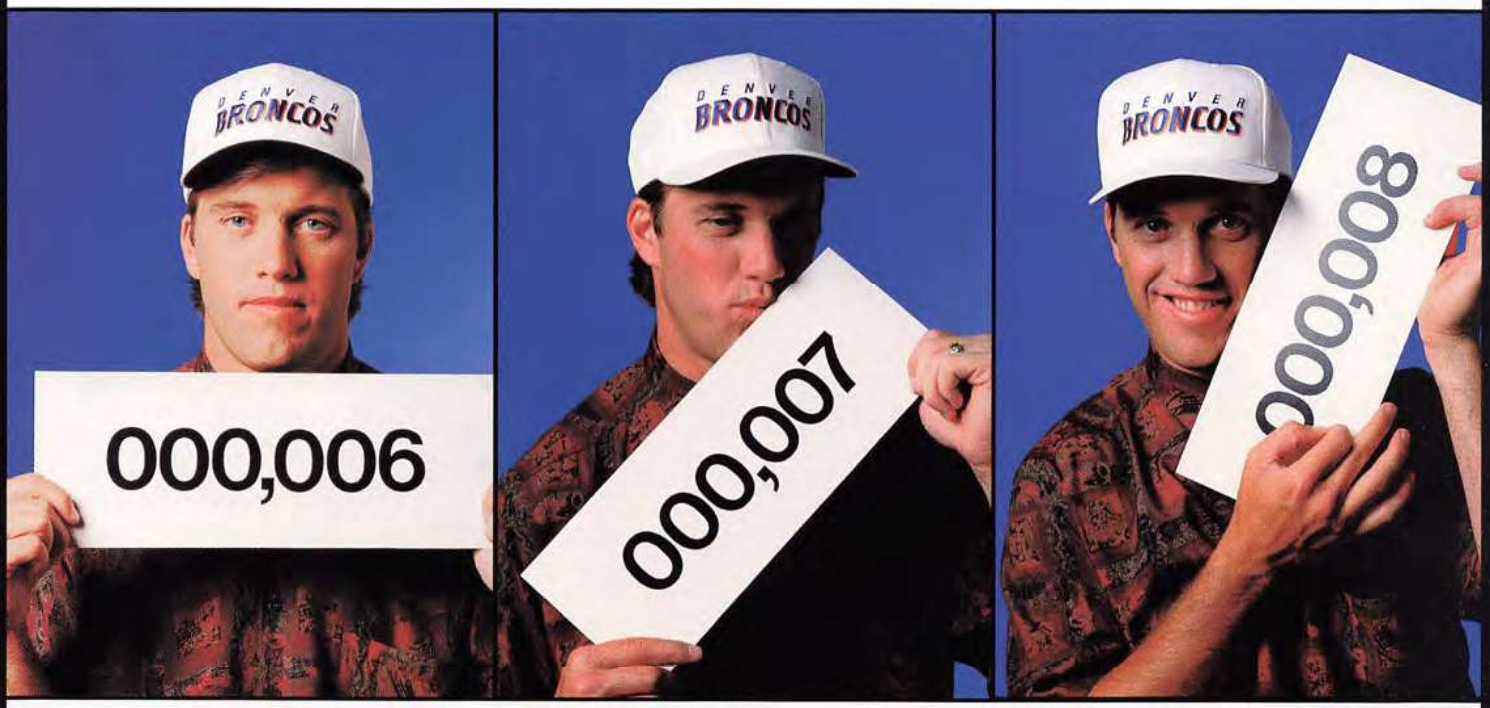

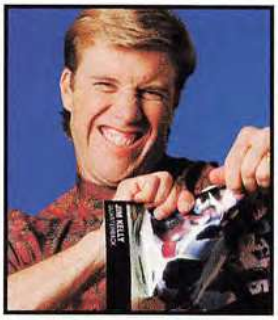

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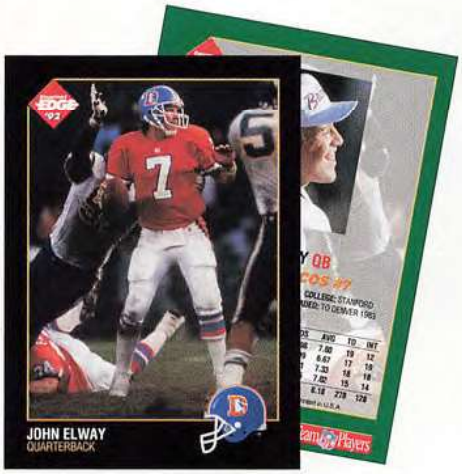

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WEEK 14

Playoff-Bound Saints, Steelers, Cowboys All Need Rallies to Win; Bills Drop Second Straight Game to Jets

DECEMBER 3

NFL teams started the Christmas rush for the playoffs, but, just like Christmas shopping, it wasn't easy.

In week 14, Pittsburgh, New Orleans, and Dallas earned playoff berths with victories—but each had to come from behind in the fourth quarter to do it.

"All I can say is we've given a new definition to winning ugly," said Steelers coach Bill Cowher, after his team overcame 5 interceptions to beat Seattle 20-14.

It was a battle for the Saints and Cowboys, too, with New Orleans clinching a 22-14 victory over Atlanta on cornerback Toi Cook's 48-yard interception return for a score with 52 seconds left. Dallas rallied to overcome stubborn Denver 31-27.

In Pittsburgh, a lot of things went wrong for the Steelers. Starting quarterback Neil O'Donnell threw 3 interceptions, then cracked a bone in his right leg and figured to be out at least two weeks. Former starter Bubby Brister came in and threw 2 more interceptions. Seattle safety Eugene Robinson had 3 of the 5 interceptions.

Late in the fourth quarter, the Seahawks, getting 2 touchdown passes from Stan Gelbaugh, were ahead 14-10. They should have led by more. John Kasay had missed all 3 of his field-goal attempts (from 40, 44, and 38 yards).

The Steelers took the lead for good at 17-14 when Brister led an 80-yard drive that ended with Barry Foster's 4-yard touchdown run with 2:22 left. Pittsburgh added a last-minute field goal when the Seahawks failed on fourth down.

"If we had messed up one more time, they would have called the rescue squad for us," Brister said.

Besides winning their fourth consecutive game, the Steelers also won their ninth successive game at home, and improved their record to 10-3, best in the AFC after Buffalo's surprising loss to the Jets. Foster's 125 rushing yards gave him 10 games with 100 yards or more for the season.

In New Orleans on Thursday night, the Saints controlled the ball for nearly 41 minutes, and totaled 220 more yards and 12 more first downs than Atlanta. But they found themselves behind 14-12 when Wade Wilson threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to Michael Haynes with 4:25 left. The touchdown was set up by Deion Sanders's 60-yard kickoff return.

Peter Read Miller

Leslie O'Neal had 3 sacks as San Diego rallied to beat Phoenix.

However, Bobby Hebert immediately led the Saints on a 51-yard drive, which ended with Morten Andersen's 37-yard field goal, his fifth three-pointer of the game, for a 15-14 lead with 1:56 left. Cook's interception return for a score in the last minute iced the victory, running the Saints' record to 8-1 in their last nine games.

"These guys want more," coach Jim Mora said of his playoff-bound team. "They're not content with just this."

In Denver, the Broncos had to play without...

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	9	4	0	Dallas	11	2	0
Miami	8	5	0	Philadelphia	8	5	0
Indianapolis	6	7	0	Washington	8	5	0
N.Y. Jets	4	9	0	N.Y. Giants	5	8	0
New England	2	11	0	Phoenix	3	10	0
AFC Central				**NFC Central**			
Pittsburgh	10	3	0	Minnesota	9	4	0
Houston	8	5	0	Green Bay	7	6	0
Cleveland	7	6	0	Chicago	4	9	0
Cincinnati	4	9	0	Tampa Bay	4	9	0
AFC West				Detroit	3	10	0
Kansas City	8	5	0	**NFC West**			
San Diego	8	5	0	San Francisco	11	2	0
Denver	7	6	0	New Orleans	10	3	0
L.A. Raiders	6	7	0	Atlanta	5	8	0
Seattle	2	11	0	L.A. Rams	5	8	0

Scores

AFC

Cleveland 37, Cincinnati 21
Indianapolis 6, New England 0
L.A. Raiders 28, Kansas City 7
N.Y. Jets 24, Buffalo 17
Pittsburgh 20, Seattle 14

NFC

Green Bay 38, Detroit 10
L.A.Rams 31, Tampa Bay 27
New Orleans 22, Atlanta 14
Philadelphia 28, Minnesota 17
Washington 28, N.Y. Giants 10

Interconference

Dallas 31, Denver 27
Houston 24, Chicago 7
San Diego 27, Phoenix 21
San Francisco 27, Miami 3

101...and Counting

On a cold, rainy day in Candlestick Park, Jerry Rice ran into history.

As the 49ers swept past Miami 27-3, Rice caught 7 wet footballs for 79 yards. The last catch was the biggest—a 12-yard touchdown pass from Steve Young with 8:56 left in the game.

It was the 101st touchdown catch of Rice's career, erasing the NFL record he shared with former Seahawks wide receiver Steve Largent. It took Rice only eight seasons to snap the record. It had taken Largent 14 to set it.

George Rose

Rice celebrated number 101.

"This record is going to be tough to break because Jerry's nowhere near the end," 49ers guard Guy McIntyre said later. "There's going to be an astronomical number of touchdowns when he's finished."

There also should be an astronomical number of catches and yards. Only 30 and in his prime, Rice stood ninth on the all-time NFL list in both catches (593) and yards (10,037). He already held the NFL single-season record for touchdown catches (22 in 1987).

"He's probably the best receiver who ever played the game, and he showed that ability today in making great catches in bad weather," Miami quarterback Dan Marino said.

Rice seemed embarrassed when people called him the best receiver of all time, but he still was excited about his record. After making the catch, he raised his arms over his head, and ran across the end zone, where he was caught and mobbed by his teammates.

"I'm just glad to get it done," he said. "I've been chasing this for a long, long time. It's a lot of pressure off me now.

"When they called my number, I said to myself, 'If Steve throws the ball to you, just go up, make the catch, and get ready for the hit.' There's no way they could have separated me from that ball."

It had been a tough year for the old record holder, Largent, who had been separated from all three of his NFL career receiving records. In succession this season, Buffalo's James Lofton, Washington's Art Monk, and Rice had broken his records for yards, catches, and touchdowns, respectively.

"I still admire Steve Largent," Rice said. "He played an important role in my career. When I was a rookie in 1985, we played at Seattle, and I had an opportunity to stand on the sidelines and watch him work—he was something."

So is his successor.

out injured John Elway for the third week in a row. Going into the Dallas game 0-2 without Elway, they alternated rookie Tommy Maddox and first-year quarterback Shawn Moore, a 1991 draftee, on nearly every play against the Cowboys.

Maddox had his moments, throwing 3 touchdown passes, but he also was intercepted 4 times and lost a fumble. His mistakes set up the Cowboys' first 3 touchdowns.

Still, the Broncos took a 27-24 lead with 9:05 left when Maddox threw an overhand lateral to rookie wide receiver Arthur Marshall, who then threw an 81-yard touchdown pass to another rookie wide receiver, Cedric Tillman.

But Dallas marched 77 yards, scoring on Emmitt Smith's 3-yard run with 2:47 left for the go-ahead points. Troy Aikman, who directed the winning drive, threw 3 touchdown passes, 2 to Michael Irvin.

"This is the first part of our goal," Irvin said. "Once you make the playoffs, anything can happen, and hopefully, everything will happen."

Playing at home, the Bills, who were shocked 16-13 by the Colts in week 13, were surprised again, this time by the Jets, who won 24-17.

Inspired by the courage of defensive end Dennis Byrd, their partially paralyzed teammate who watched the game from his hospital room, the Jets outscored the Bills 21-7 in the second half and snapped their 10-game losing streak to Buffalo.

"We didn't talk a whole lot about dedicating the game to Dennis," Jets coach Bruce Coslet said. "We just knew what we had to do, and we went out there and got it done against a helluva team."

The two teams were tied 17-17 when safety Brian Washington intercepted a pass by Jim Kelly and then returned it 23 yards for the winning touchdown with 1:41 left. Washington also intercepted Kelly's Hail-Mary pass with 11 seconds remaining. The Jets' Brad Baxter ran for 98 yards and 2 touchdowns.

After the game, Coslet, team president Steve Gutman, owner Leon Hess, and about a dozen players spoke to Byrd on the phone. Gutman later presented him with the game ball.

The surprising Chargers, now 8-1 in their last nine games, moved into a tie for first place in the AFC West by upending Phoenix 27-21, while the unpredictable Raiders pounded the Chiefs 28-7.

The Chargers trailed the Cardinals 21-17 when cornerback Gill Byrd recovered a fumble—one of 5 Phoenix turnovers—to set up a 63-yard drive. Ronnie Harmon capped that drive with a 1-yard touchdown run that gave San Diego the lead for good with 8:44 remaining.

"I feel like a kid in a candy store," said Byrd, who also forced a fumble with 5:41 left to end the Cardinals' last serious threat. Defensive end Leslie O'Neal had 3 of San Diego's 5 sacks of Chris Chandler.

The Chiefs had won six games in a row against the Raiders, but Jay Schroeder threw 3 touchdown passes, and Elvis Patterson blocked a punt and recovered it in the end zone for a touchdown as Los Angeles won easily. The defeat snapped Kansas City's four-game winning streak.

In Philadelphia, the Eagles stayed unbeaten at home (6-0) with a 28-17 victory over the Vikings. The loss kept Minnesota from clinching the NFC Central title.

The Eagles' Randall Cunningham passed for 164 yards, ran for 121 on 12 carries, and scored twice on quarterback sneaks. Defensive tackle Andy Harmon had 3 sacks, and linebacker Seth Joyner scored the clinching touchdown on a one-handed interception and 24-yard return.

On a snowy day in Milwaukee, the Packers stayed hot by winning their fifth game in six weeks with a 38-10 rout of the Lions. Brett Favre threw 3 touchdown passes, including 65- and 9-yard collaborations with Sterling Sharpe. Sharpe's 6 catches increased his NFL-leading total to 88.

Detroit's Barry Sanders rushed for 114 yards to boost his season total to 1,048, making him only the fourth back in NFL history (Eric Dickerson, Earl Campbell, and Tony Dorsett were the others) to rush for 1,000 yards in each of his first four seasons.

In Houston, the Oilers handed the Bears their sixth successive loss, winning 24-7 on Lorenzo White's 116 rushing yards and a touchdown, and safety Bubba McDowell's 26-yard interception return for a score. ☆

Players of the Week

Kosar blistered the Bengals.

AFC OFFENSE—**Bernie Kosar** completed a club-record 82.6 percent of his passes (19 of 23), including 35- and 45-yard touchdown passes to Eric Metcalf and Michael Jackson, as the Browns rolled past the Bengals 37-21.
AFC DEFENSE—Safety **Brian Washington** returned an interception 23 yards for the winning touchdown with 1:41 left as the Jets surprised the Bills 24-17. Washington also had 7 tackles and another interception.

NFC OFFENSE—**Jim Everett** passed for 342 yards and 3 touchdowns as he rallied the Rams from a 27-3 halftime deficit to a 31-27 victory over Tampa Bay—the greatest victorious comeback in Rams history.
NFC DEFENSE—Defensive end **Wayne Martin** had a club-record-tying 4 sacks, 3 other tackles, and a forced fumble to help the Saints beat the Falcons 22-14.

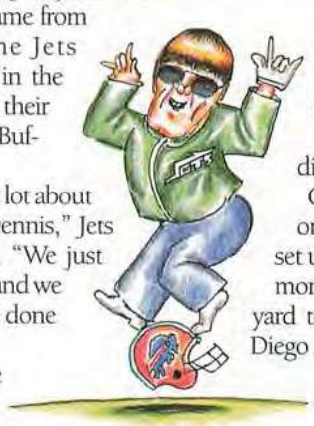
Michael Heinz

John H. Reid

Martin had 4 sacks against Atlanta.

James Whitaker

Elvis Patterson blocked a Chiefs' punt and recovered for a score as the Raiders won 28-7.



Quote

Jets coach **Bruce Coslet**, after his inspired team surprised Buffalo 24-17:

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Marv Rubin

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Designed to keep you warm and cozy, this super jacket includes a polyfil lining, a removable drawstring hood, a hidden zippered front, elasticized waist and cuffs, and two side pockets. The 100% oxford nylon jacket also features the Super Bowl XXVII logo on the left chest. Adult sizes: M, L, XL. Imported.
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Be on time for the big game as you wear your Super Bowl XXVII Bulova watch. The watch features a black case, black vinyl band, gold tension ring, and a white face that boldly displays the Super Bowl logo. The watch is water resistant, and other timely features include a sweep second hand and calendar.
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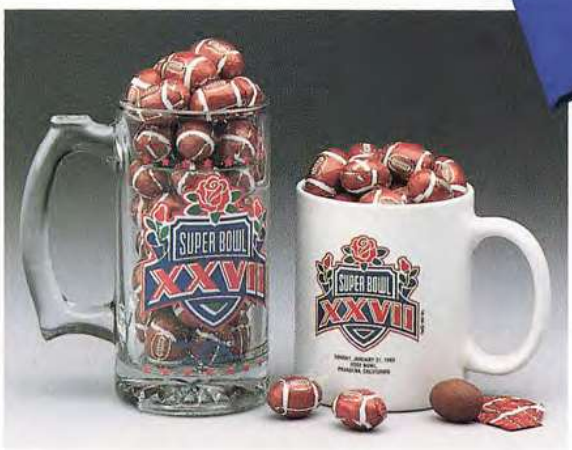

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The two-tone vibrant caps feature the Super Bowl XXVII directly embroidered on a wool/blend cap with a contrasting bill. The black Super Bowl logo cap features the Super Bowl XXVII logo on the front. The Champs cotton cap will be available in early February.
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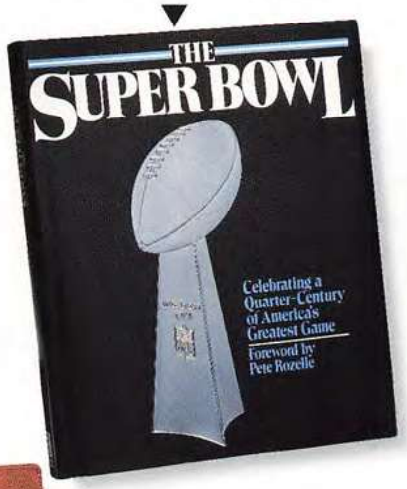

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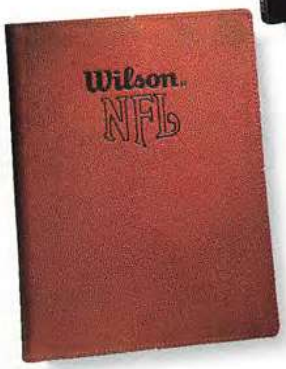

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#F652 NFL Lithographs.....**$99.00**
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Jim Kelly

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The shell of the jacket is constructed of 100% oxford nylon, and the lining is polyfil and diamond quilted to keep you toasty warm. Other features include: team logo on the left chest, team name or logo across the back of the jacket, full front zipper, and flannel lined pockets. The jacket also comes with a detachable hood and inside pockets. Full cut sizes: M, L, XL. NFL teams available: Bears, Bills, Chiefs, Falcons, 49ers, Giants, Jets, Lions, Raiders, Redskins, and Saints.
#F172 NFL Swirl Jacket.....**$119.99**

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Sports Specialties is proud to introduce these 100% wool two-tone caps. The team name is embroidered on the front. Adult sizes: 7 1/8, 7 1/4, 7 3/8, 7 1/2. NFL teams available: Bears, Bills, Chiefs, Cowboys, Dolphins, Eagles, 49ers, Giants, Raiders, and Redskins.
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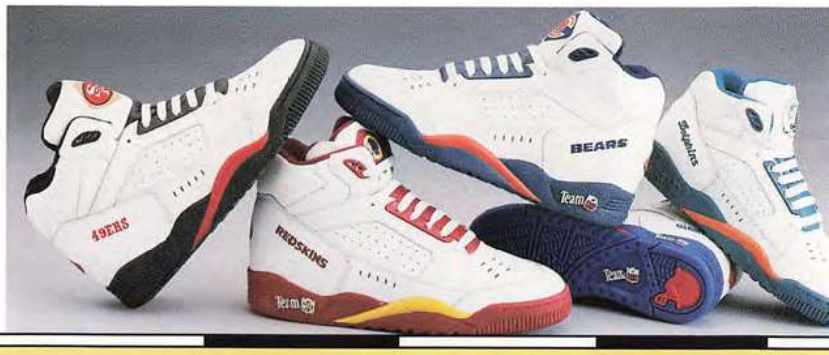

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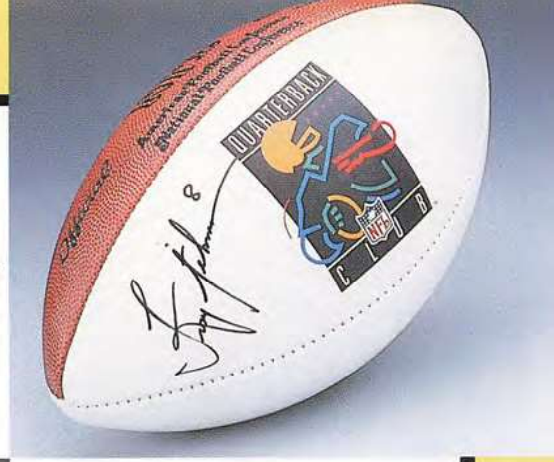
#F748 QB Club Footballs **$99.99**



Autographed Quarterback Football
This limited edition of only 200 footballs is hand-signed with a black permanent marker on one of three white panels by Troy Aikman, John Elway, and Warren Moon.
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Exclusive! New, exciting 5" x 7" photos mounted on an acrylic base.
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#F209 NFL Antigua Coaches Shirts **$49.99**

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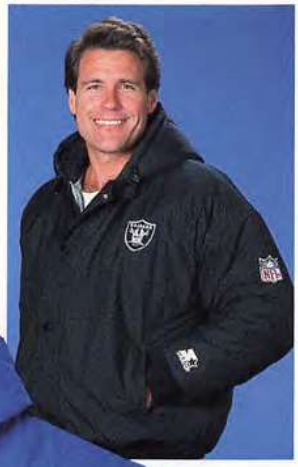

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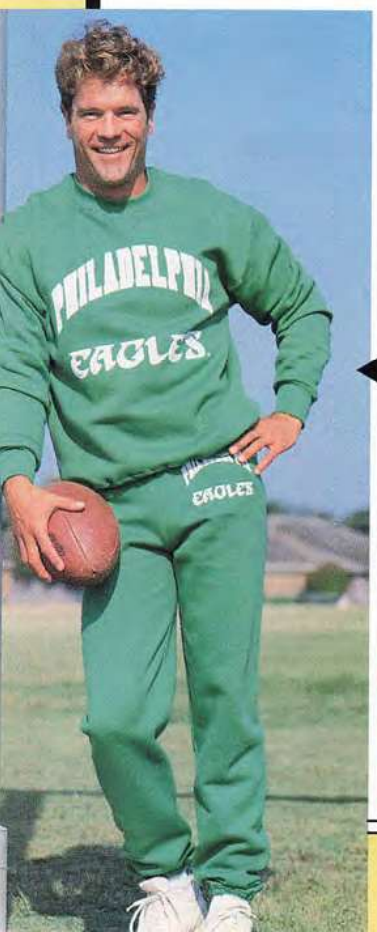

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The heavy-duty Russell Pro Line 50% cotton 50% polyester sweats are built to last through hundreds of workouts and washings. Colors may vary. Adult sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL. XXL is available in top only. Add $3.00 for each XXL sweat top. Sold separately for most NFL teams.

#F346 NFL Top.....**$28.99**
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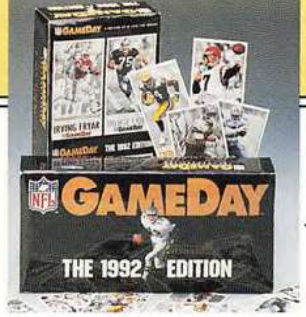
Starter Adult Parka

They not only look great but feel great as well. This hooded parka is insulated with Thermoloft for extra warmth. The Authentic Pro Line parka has cozy quilted lining, roomy pockets, side and front zippers, and full-front snaps. Each parka has a direct embroidered crest on the front and team name on the back. Adult sizes: M, L, XL, XXL. NFL teams available: Bears, Bills, Chiefs, Cowboys, Falcons, 49ers, Giants, Jets, Lions, Packers, Raiders, and Redskins.

#F160 NFL Adult Parka **$119.99**



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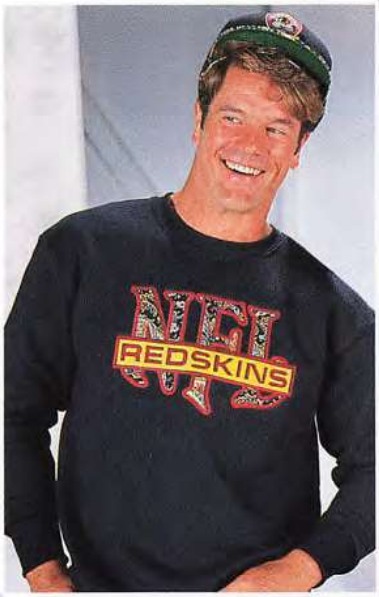
#F344 NFL Reverse Weave Top.....**$44.99**
#F336 NFL Reverse Weave Pants.....**$44.99**



Jumbo T-Shirt
Wear the 50% cotton/50% polyester shirt as a nightshirt, beach coverup, or dress. One size fits all. Shirt designs pictured may vary from actual designs. Most NFL teams available. Colors and graphics may vary.
#F295 NFL Jumbo T.....**$24.99**

JUST WEAR IT!

NFL Paisley Sweatshirt
50% cotton/50% polyester. Adult sizes: M, L, XL, XXL. Please add $3.00 for XXL. NFL teams: Bears, Bills, Chiefs, Cowboys, Dolphins, Falcons, 49ers, Giants, Jets, Lions, Packers, Raiders, Redskins, Saints, Steelers, and Vikings.
#F356 Paisley Fleece **$39.99**

NFL DeLong Wool Jacket
This 24 oz. jacket has a full wool body with contrasting wool sleeves to keep you warm and cozy. Each jacket has snap buttons and the team name on the front and back. Adult sizes: M (40-42), L (44-46), XL (48-50), XXL (52-54), XXXL (56-58). All NFL teams available. Drop shipped.
#F183 Wool Jacket **$169.99**
#F183 Wool Jacket
Size XXL **$179.99**
#F183 Wool Jacket
Size XXXL..**$199.99**

Pro Line T-Shirt
This 100% heavyweight cotton T-Shirt features a full athletic cut with double needle stitching for durability. The shirt also features the team name screened on the front with the NFL emblem and authentic Pro Line logo beautifully embroidered under the team name. Adult sizes: M (44), L (48), XL (52). NFL teams available: Bears, Bills, Chiefs, Cowboys, Dolphins, Eagles, 49ers, Giants, Raiders, and Redskins.
#F213 Pro Line T **$28.99**

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Constructed of 50% cotton/50% polyester. Adult sizes: S, M, L, XL. NFL teams available: Bears, Bills, Chiefs, Cowboys, Eagles, Falcons, 49ers, Giants, Jets, Lions, Packers, Raiders, Redskins, and Saints.
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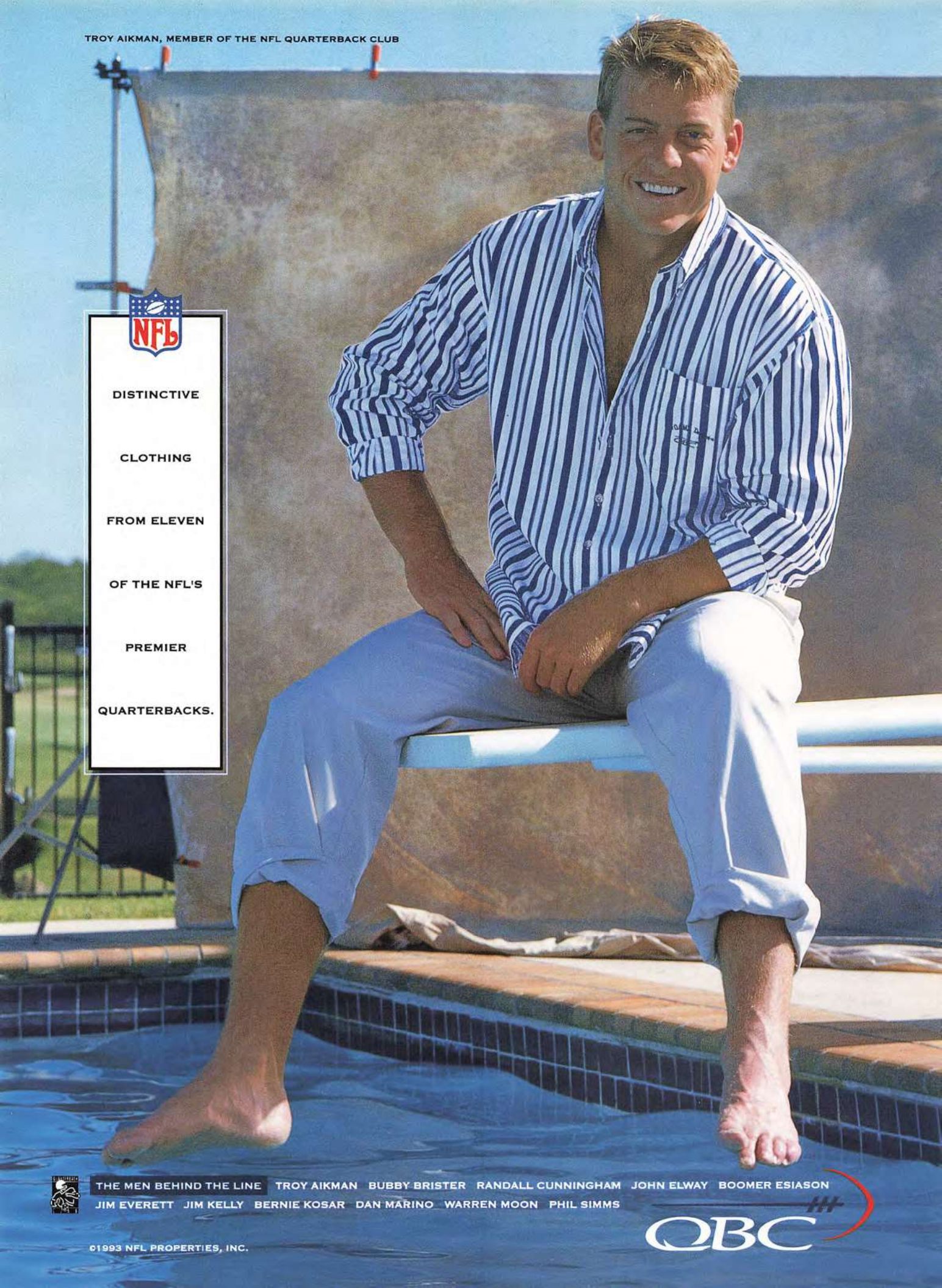
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WEEK 15

It's 1966 All Over Again as Packers Win Fifth Straight; Bills Make Playoffs for Fifth Year in Row

DECEMBER 12

The last time the Packers won five games in a row, Vince Lombardi was the coach.

But, after they surprised Houston 16-14 in week 15, they had won five in a row again for the first time since 1966—the season Green Bay and Lombardi went to Super Bowl I.

Quarterback Brett Favre was amazed.

"I wasn't even born in 1966," Favre said. "But when I got traded here [from Atlanta], if you had said I'd be standing here after five straight, I'd have laughed in your face. The Pack is back."

The Pack was back all right. Under new coach Mike Holmgren, Green Bay was one of four teams still contending for the NFC's last three playoff spots.

The playoff chase was more wide open in the AFC where seven teams still were scrambling for the last four playoff spots.

Defending AFC champion Buffalo was the only postseason qualifier in week 15, as the Bills snapped a two-game losing streak with a 27-17 victory over fading Denver.

Pittsburgh, which earned a playoff bid the week before, also clinched the AFC Central title when Houston lost to Green Bay. But the Steelers weren't celebrating too loudly, because they were beaten by the Bears 30-6.

The Packers were happy, though, as they took advantage of 4 Oilers turnovers to score 13 of their 16 points and win at Houston.

Paul Spinelli/NFLP

Buffalo's Don Beebe was all alone as he scored on a 64-yard flea-flicker.

Green Bay scored its clinching touchdown on Favre's 6-yard pass to Sterling Sharpe with 3:33 left, climaxing a 63-yard drive that began after a turnover. Linebacker Bryce Paup had recovered Houston quarterback Cody Carlson's fumbled snap at the Packers' 37.

In Buffalo, the Bills jumped to a 21-0 halftime lead over Denver and never trailed. Their victory enabled them to clinch a playoff berth for the fifth straight year, while the Broncos lost their fourth game in a row without injured quarterback John Elway.

It was scoreless midway through the second quarter when Buffalo started a 21-point blitz before halftime with a flea-flicker. Quarterback Jim Kelly handed the ball to Thurman Thomas, who started left and then reversed to Andre Reed. Reed pitched the ball back to Kelly, who threw a 64-yard touchdown pass to Don Beebe.

"Their safeties [Steve Atwater and Dennis Smith] fly to the ball, because they like to stop the run," Beebe said. "We saw that in the AFC Championship Game last year."

Besides his part in the trick play, Thomas rushed for 120 yards and a touchdown. It was his fourth successive 100-yard game.

In Miami, the Dolphins stayed a game behind the Bills in the AFC East with a 20-7 victory over the Raiders that featured a pair of interception returns for touchdowns.

Los Angeles safety Eddie Anderson scored on a club-record 102-yard runback that equaled the second-longest return in NFL history. Miami cornerback J.B. Brown scored on a 35-yard return.

In Minneapolis, the 49ers scored their sixth victory in a row, edging the Vikings 20-17.

San Francisco's Steve Young was sacked 7 times, 3 of them by defensive end Al Noga, but bounced up to complete 20 of 26 passes, including a 3-yard touchdown strike to rookie running back Amp Lee. Lee, replacing the injured Ricky Watters for the second week in a row, also rushed for 134 yards and a touchdown. But he wasn't surprised.

Scott Cunningham

Washington's Jason Buck (99) forced a fumble by Dallas's Troy Aikman (8) that led to a touchdown.

"It's not like I didn't think I could do it," Lee said. "I just didn't get a chance to play because Ricky's been so good all season."

The 49ers' defense was good, too, hold-

Marv Rubin

Quote

Browns tackle **Dan Fike**, describing the guys up front:

"A line is like five fingers. We all have to work together."

Players of the Week

AFC OFFENSE—**Thurman Thomas** ran for 120 yards and a touchdown as the Bills defeated the Broncos 27-17.

AFC DEFENSE—Linebacker **Bryan Cox** had 7 tackles, including 2 sacks, broke up a pass, and forced 2 fumbles as the Dolphins stopped the Raiders 20-7.

NFC OFFENSE—Rookie **Amp Lee** ran for 134 yards and a touchdown and caught a 3-yard touchdown pass from Steve Young in the 49ers' 20-17 victory over the Vikings.

NFC DEFENSE—Safety **Danny Copeland** recovered 2 fumbles, the last one for the game-winning touchdown with 3:14 left, made 13 tackles, and deflected a pass as the Redskins rallied to beat Dallas 20-17.

Bob Rosato

Cox helped beat the Raiders.

Jim Turner

Lee scored two touchdowns.

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ing Minnesota to 185 yards and 10 first downs, but the Vikings scored on defense. Cornerback Audray McMillian returned an interception 51 yards for a touchdown—Minnesota's club-record eighth defensive touchdown of the season. Safety Vencie Glenn tackled 49ers punter Klaus Wilmsmeyer on the San Francisco 4-yard line to set up another touchdown.

While the 49ers stretched their record to 12-2, the Cowboys fell to 11-3 and blew an opportunity to clinch the NFC East title.

Dallas led the Redskins 17-7 at halftime on a pair of Troy Aikman 5-yard touchdown passes to tight end Jay Novacek, but Washington took advantage of 2 huge turnovers in the fourth quarter to win 20-17.

Andy Hayt

Atlanta's Wade Wilson threw 5 touchdown passes to beat Tampa Bay.

"We felt like we had the ball game and let it get away from us," Aikman said. "I should have taken better care of the ball."

With a 17-10 lead early in the fourth quarter, Aikman threw a pass from the Redskins' 2-yard line that was intercepted in the end zone by linebacker Andre Collins. Collins returned it 59 yards to set up the field goal that sliced the lead to 17-13.

Less than four minutes after the field goal, Aikman faded to pass from his own 5-yard line, but the ball was knocked out of his hands in the end zone by defensive tackle Jason Buck. Running back Emmitt Smith scooped it up and tried to pitch it forward to tight end Alfredo Roberts, but it was ruled a fumble and recovered for the winning touchdown by safety Danny Copeland with 3:14 left.

The Saints and Chargers stayed hot as both teams stretched their records to 9-1 in the last 10 games. The Saints riddled the Rams 37-14 and the Chargers handled the Bengals 27-10.

In Anaheim, New Orleans forced 6 Rams turnovers, which led to 23 points. Bobby Hebert threw 2 touchdown passes, and rookie Vaughn Dunbar ran for 91 yards and a touchdown.

In San Diego, the Chargers remained tied for first place in the AFC West with Kansas City as they earned their fifth win in a row. It was Cincinnati's fifth loss in a row.

San Diego's Stan Humphries threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Anthony Miller and scored on a 1-yard, fourth-down bootleg. The Chargers also welcomed back running back Rod Bernstine, who had missed seven games with an injury, and he scored on a 7-yard run.

The Eagles narrowly escaped from Seattle with a victory, edging the Seahawks 20-17 on Roger Ruzek's 44-yard field goal as time expired in overtime. To win, the Eagles had to overcome a club-record 191 yards in penalties and 10 sacks of Randall Cunningham.

Trailing 17-10 in the fourth quarter, Cunningham, who passed for 365 yards, led a 93-yard drive for the tying touchdown that came on Herschel Walker's 8-yard run with 4:52 remaining. On the winning overtime drive, Cunningham avoided his eleventh sack when he shoveled the ball to Keith Byars, who ran 21 yards to the Seattle 29 to set up the decisive field goal.

In Tampa, Atlanta quarterback Wade Wilson replaced injured Billy Joe Tolliver and passed for 324 yards and 5 touchdowns in a 35-7 victory over Tampa Bay.

Wilson's flurry of scoring passes consisted of 8- and 60-yard strikes to Michael Haynes, a 20-yard completion to Andre Rison, a 38-yarder to Mike Pritchard, and a 37-yarder to cornerback-turned-wide receiver Deion Sanders. The victory snapped Atlanta's nine-game losing streak on the road. ☆

'Be Like Mike'—and It Pays

Before the game, as fans and teammates honored him, a tear streamed down Mike Singletary's cheek. After the game, while waiting for an interview by NBC, he got tears in his eyes again.

Bruce Dierdorff

Singletary said goodbye.

It was that kind of emotional day in Chicago, as Singletary, the Bears' middle linebacker since 1981, played his final game in Soldier Field after 12 seasons and nine Pro Bowl trips. He planned to retire after the season.

And, as the fans chanted "Mike! Mike! Mike!" the Bears responded. They had lost six games in a row, but on this day they played in a frenzy and surprised Pittsburgh—which still became the first team to clinch a division title—30-6.

"It shows you what emotion can do," Bears coach Mike Ditka said. "I've been around for a while, and I don't know if I've ever seen a defense play more aggressively."

The night before the game, Ditka, that old motivator, showed his players a highlight reel of Singletary's career.

"It affected them," Ditka said. "They saw the way he played and the way he hit."

On Sunday, the Bears hit, too. Their seventeenth-ranked defense held Pittsburgh's Barry Foster, the league's leading rusher, to 25 yards on a dozen carries. They forced 4 turnovers, blocked a punt, sacked Bubby Brister 5 times, and limited Pittsburgh to 140 total yards.

On offense, Chicago rushed for 212 yards, controlled the ball for nearly 38 minutes, and got 2 touchdowns from Neal Anderson.

As the clock ran down, veteran defensive tackle Steve McMichael, who had 2 sacks and a forced fumble, showered Singletary with Gatorade.

"We all decided before the game we were going to play like Mike plays," defensive tackle Chris Zorich said. "'Be like Mike' is what we were saying. We wanted to play with intensity and fire.

"We played this way as a tribute to a man who deserves everything."

"I don't even dream that good," the 34-year-old Singletary said of the happy outcome to his special day.

"It was a very humbling experience to have the opportunity to go out and play with so many guys that you love, and have the opportunity to turn the tide and make a difference. That's what we did today. And we did it together."

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	10	4	0
Miami	9	5	0
Indianapolis	7	7	0
N.Y. Jets	4	10	0
New England	2	12	0
AFC Central			
Pittsburgh	10	4	0
Houston	8	6	0
Cleveland	7	7	0
Cincinnati	4	10	0
AFC West			
Kansas City	9	5	0
San Diego	9	5	0
Denver	7	7	0
L.A. Raiders	6	8	0
Seattle	2	12	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	11	3	0
Philadelphia	9	5	0
Washington	9	5	0
N.Y. Giants	5	9	0
Phoenix	4	10	0
NFC Central			
Minnesota	9	5	0
Green Bay	8	6	0
Chicago	5	9	0
Detroit	4	10	0
Tampa Bay	4	10	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	12	2	0
New Orleans	11	3	0
Atlanta	6	8	0
L.A. Rams	5	9	0

Scores

AFC

Buffalo 27, Denver 17
Indianapolis 10, New York Jets 6
Kansas City 27, New England 20
Miami 20, L.A. Raiders 7

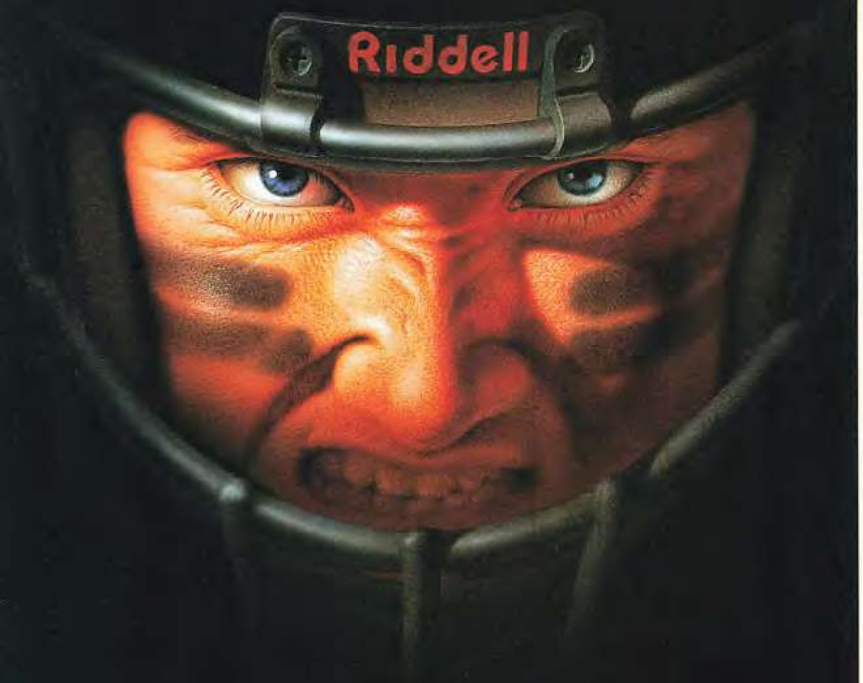
NFC

Atlanta 35, Tampa Bay 7
New Orleans 37, L.A. Rams 14
Phoenix 19, New York Giants 0
San Francisco 20, Minnesota 17
Washington 20, Dallas 17

Interconference

Chicago 30, Pittsburgh 6
Detroit 24, Cleveland 14
Green Bay 16, Houston 14
Philadelphia 20, Seattle 17 (OT)
San Diego 27, Cincinnati 10

NO GUTS!



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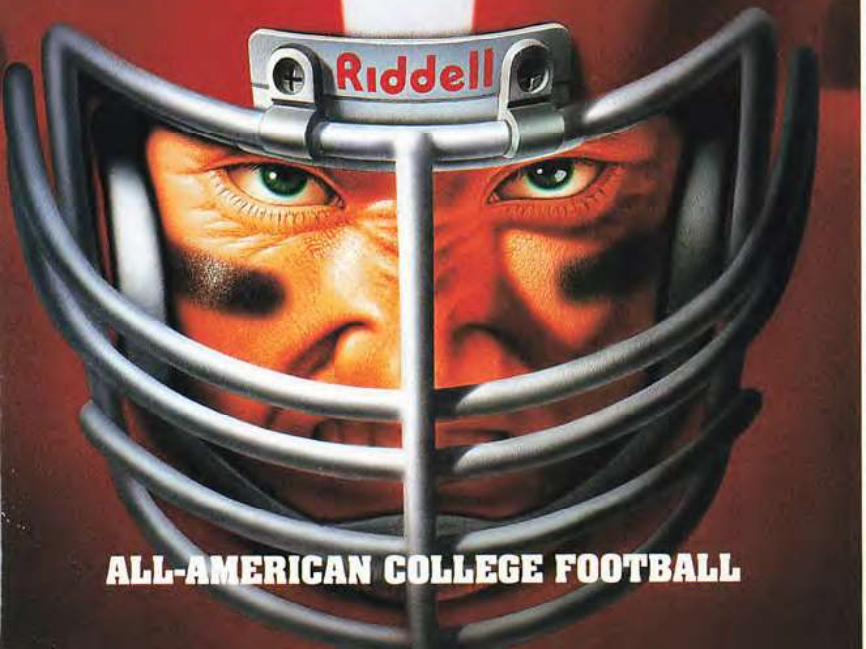

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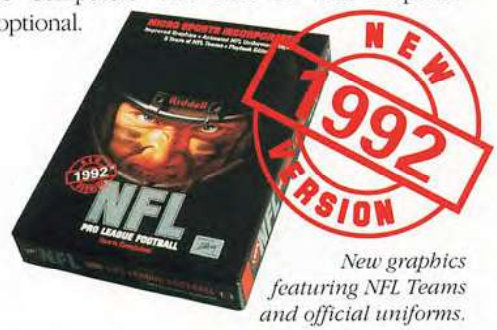

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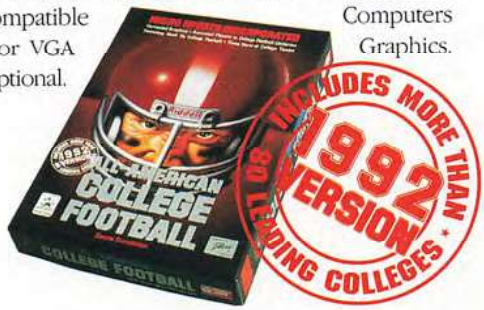

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WEEK 16

It's Heart-Wrenching Time as Seven Games are Decided in Last Minute; 10 of 12 Playoff Berths Set

DECEMBER 19

Eagles linebacker Seth Joyner summed up the week for the entire NFL.

"Those final seconds took a year off my life," Joyner said after the Eagles held off the Redskins 17-13 in a game that was decided on the last play. "My heart rate must have been up to 200 beats [a minute]."

Heart rates were up all over the league in week 16. An astonishing seven games were decided in the last minute, and the winners clinched playoff berths in four of them.

Five teams in all—Minnesota and Philadelphia in the NFC, and Miami, Houston, and San Diego in the AFC—wrapped up playoff bids. With one week to go, 10 of the 12 spots were filled.

At the same time, three teams, all in the NFC, clinched division titles—San Francisco (West), Minnesota (Central), and Dallas (East).

In Philadelphia, the Eagles ran their record to 7-0 at home this season and gained their fourth playoff trip in five years with a nerve-racking victory over the Redskins.

Philadelphia led 17-13, but the Redskins got the ball on their own 10 with 3:25 left and drove 85 yards to the Eagles' 5. On the game's final play, Mark Rypien passed into the end zone for Gary Clark, but cornerback Eric Allen knocked the ball away.

The Eagles, who trailed 13-7 at halftime, took a 14-13 lead in the third quarter when Calvin Williams made an acrobatic catch of Randall Cunningham's 28-yard touchdown pass. Meanwhile, Heath Sherman ran for 96 yards and scored on a 21-yard run.

While the Eagles celebrated, the defending Super Bowl-champion Redskins headed into the final week still trying to win the last NFC playoff spot (their competition was the Green Bay Packers).

In Pittsburgh, the Vikings earned both a playoff berth and the NFC Central title when Fuad Reveiz kicked a 36-yard, last-play field goal that beat the Steelers 6-3.

"To me, those situations are fun," said Reveiz, who also kicked a 38-yard field goal earlier in the final quarter. "I hit it good, and I thought it had enough."

On a day in which Minnesota's Terry Allen rushed for 172 yards, Sean Salisbury's 35-yard pass to Jake Reed was the play that set up the winning field goal.

In defeat, NFL rushing leader Barry Foster of Pittsburgh ran for 118 yards, his eleventh 100-yard game of the season, but he left the game in the fourth quarter with a sprained back. The loss snapped Pittsburgh's nine-game, home-field winning streak.

Although Miami and Houston earned playoff bids, both had to score twice in the last three minutes to pull out victories.

The Dolphins nipped the Jets 19-17 on Pete Stoyanovich's 37-yard field goal that was right down the middle with seven seconds left. For Stoyanovich, it was a second chance.

Scott Cunningham

The Eagles' Calvin Williams scored on this 28-yard catch against the Redskins.

With 2:30 remaining, the Dolphins were about to tie the score at 17-17, after Tony Martin had taken Dan Marino's short fourth-down pass 55 yards for a touchdown. But Stoyanovich sliced his conversion attempt to the right.

"Can you imagine the pressure he was under after missing the PAT?" Miami coach Don Shula said later.

By leading the winning rally, Marino registered his fifth successful fourth-quarter comeback this season and the twenty-third of his career,

Bills Practice Reverse Domination

With one week left in the season, the Buffalo Bills had a 4-0 record—4-0 against NFC teams, that is.

This was a striking accomplishment for a team that had lost the last two Super Bowls against the NFC. Particularly impressive was the fact that two of those four victories were road conquests of the 13-2 49ers and 11-4 Saints. In contrast, the 13 other AFC teams had a combined 18-30 record against NFC teams.

"In twenty years, if you ask me to look back on the five games I remember the best, I'll bet this will be one of them," Buffalo coach Marv Levy said after his team clawed back to beat the Saints 20-16 in the howling Superdome.

Still hoping to win the AFC East for a fifth successive year and secure home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs, the Bills needed to win this game.

But they began it without Pro Bowl defensive end Bruce Smith, then lost three more defensive starters for all or part of the game—Pro Bowl linebackers Cornelius Bennett and Shane Conlan and cornerback Kirby Jackson. Only Conlan returned.

Ron Mescati/Buffalo News

Thurman Thomas scored twice for the Bills.

Still, they rallied from a 13-3 halftime deficit to beat a team that had won four in a row and nine of its last 10.

"I think this win was huge for our football team," Bills center Kent Hull said. "I don't think anybody in the United States had any idea we could come down here and win."

They won because the rest of the defense played ferociously, holding the Saints to 28 yards in the second half and sacking Bobby Hebert 4 times, including 2 by end Phil Hansen and 1½ by nose tackle Jeff Wright.

"Who would have thought, without Bruce and without Cornelius, that our defense would come through like that?" running back Thurman Thomas said. "If anybody deserved a game ball, it would be the entire defense."

Thomas deserved one, too. He ran for 115 yards, including 87 in the second half, and caught 6 passes for 62 yards. His 41-yard, third-quarter dash set up his 6-yard touchdown run that got the Bills back in the game.

And, with 7:19 left, Thomas scored from the 2, one play after a 24-yard, pass-interference penalty, as Buffalo went ahead for good, 17-16.

Meanwhile, up front, tackles Howard Ballard and Will Wolford won enough battles with Saints pass-rushing linebackers Rickey Jackson and Pat Swilling to give quarterback Jim Kelly some breathing space in the second half.

"This showed why we have forty-seven players on the team," Buffalo linebacker Darryl Talley said.

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WEEK SIXTEEN

counting playoffs and games won in overtime. Besides his 80-yard touchdown drive, Marino moved the Dolphins 26 yards to set up the winning field goal after a short punt.

In Cleveland, the Browns were trying to stay in contention for a playoff bid themselves, and they held a 14-3 lead over the Oilers late in the fourth quarter, thanks to Bernie Kosar's 2 short touchdown passes.

But Cody Carlson, despite being sacked 6 times in the game, led Houston on consecutive drives of 85 and 74 yards, throwing 2 touchdown passes in the last 2:58 to pull it out 17-14.

"After we got the first one, the guys really started believing," Carlson said.

Carlson ended his first drive with a 2-yard touchdown pass to Curtis Duncan, then set up the next one with a second-and-23 screen pass that Lorenzo White carried 65 yards to the Browns' 12. Carlson's winning touchdown pass went 3 yards to Ernest Givins with 34 seconds left.

It was easier this day for the Chargers, but their road to the playoffs the rest of the season had been anything but easy. After routing the Raiders 36-14, San Diego became the first team in NFL history to qualify for postseason play after an 0-4 start.

"To come back from 0-4 to make the playoffs...I'm just very happy for all of our players," coach Bobby Ross said.

The game was never in doubt as San Diego scored on its first five possessions for a 23-0 halftime lead. John Carney kicked a club-record 5 field goals, and Stan Humphries threw 14- and 50-yard touchdown passes to Anthony Miller and Nate Lewis.

The victory was the Chargers' sixth in a row and tenth in their last 11 games, putting them in the playoffs for the first time since 1982.

The Cowboys were al-

David Drapkin

Rodney Hampton ran for 3 touchdowns as the Giants surprised the Chiefs 35-21.

Players of the Week

White led Houston's rally.

AFC OFFENSE—**Lorenzo White** rushed for 70 yards and caught 6 passes for 105 more to help the Oilers rally to a 17-14 victory over the Browns. White's 65-yard run with a screen pass set up the winning touchdown.
AFC DEFENSE—Nose tackle **Jeff Wright** had 8 tackles, including 1½ sacks and 2 other tackles for a loss, as the Bills overcame the Saints 20-16.

NFC OFFENSE—**Sterling Sharpe** caught 8 passes for 110 yards and 2 touchdowns to help the Packers win their sixth consecutive game, 28-13 over the Rams. With 102 catches this season, Sharpe became the sixth receiver in NFL history to reach 100.
NFC DEFENSE—Linebacker **Seth Joyner** had 12 tackles, including a sack, and intercepted a pass to stop a drive as the Eagles held off the Redskins 17-13.

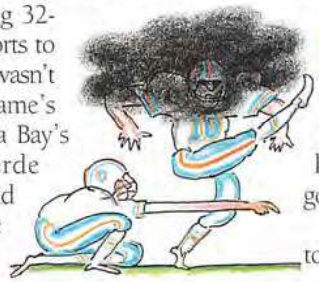
Sharpe caught 8 passes for 2 scores.

Robert Shaver David Drapkin

ready in the playoffs, but they clinched their first NFC East title since 1985 with a 41-17 Monday-night rout of Atlanta. Troy Aikman passed for 3 touchdowns and completed 18 of 21 attempts, while Emmitt Smith ran for 174 yards and scored on a pair of 29-yard runs.

In San Francisco, the 49ers won their seventh game in a row and clinched their sixth NFC West title in the last seven years by holding off Tampa Bay 21-14. San Francisco also wrapped up the home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs.

Steve Young threw 3 touchdown passes, including 32- and 30-yard efforts to Jerry Rice, but it wasn't easy. On the game's last play, Tampa Bay's Vinny Testaverde threw into the end zone from the 49ers' 35, but it was knocked down by safety Dana Hall.



Marv Rubin

The Colts were eliminated from playoff contention, but they still had reason to be happy.

When Dean Biasucci kicked a 42-yard field goal to beat Phoenix with 49 seconds left, the Colts had won their fourth game in a row and raised their record to 8-7 under new coach Ted Marchibroda. Thus, they became the first team in NFL history to win eight games the year after going 1-15.

Jeff George passed for 328 yards and a touchdown, and safety Mike Prior intercepted 3 passes, the last at the Colts' 36 with 19 seconds left.

Denver and Kansas City headed into the last week still wrestling for the final AFC playoff spot.

The Broncos stayed alive by snapping their four-game losing streak as injured quarterback John Elway came back to lead a 10-6 victory over Seattle. His 213 yards passing helped him become the fifteenth NFL player to pass for more than 30,000 yards in his career.

The Chiefs missed a chance to clinch a playoff berth when they lost to the Giants 35-21. New York's Jeff Hostetler, after missing three games with a concussion, came back to complete 10 of 16 passes for 131 yards and 2 touchdowns, and Rodney Hampton ran for 3 touchdowns. ☆

Quote

Pete Stoyanovich, on kicking the winning field goal in Miami's 19-17 victory over the Jets, just 2:23 after missing a game-tying conversion:

"It was a way to come out of the dark."

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	11	4	0	Dallas	12	3	0
Miami	10	5	0	Philadelphia	10	5	0
Indianapolis	8	7	0	Washington	9	6	0
N.Y. Jets	4	11	0	N.Y. Giants	6	9	0
New England	2	13	0	Phoenix	4	11	0
AFC Central				**NFC Central**			
Pittsburgh	10	5	0	Minnesota	10	5	0
Houston	9	6	0	Green Bay	9	6	0
Cleveland	7	8	0	Chicago	5	10	0
Cincinnati	5	10	0	Detroit	5	10	0
AFC West				Tampa Bay	4	11	0
San Diego	10	5	0	**NFC West**			
Kansas City	9	6	0	San Francisco	13	2	0
Denver	8	7	0	New Orleans	11	4	0
L.A. Raiders	6	9	0	Atlanta	6	9	0
Seattle	2	13	0	L.A. Rams	5	10	0

Scores

AFC
Cincinnati 20, New England 10
Denver 10, Seattle 6
Houston 17, Cleveland 14
Miami 19, New York Jets 17
San Diego 36, L.A. Raiders 14

NFC
Dallas 41, Atlanta 17
Detroit 16, Chicago 3
Green Bay 28, L.A. Rams 13
Philadelphia 17, Washington 13
San Francisco 21, Tampa Bay 14

Interconference
Buffalo 20, New Orleans 16
Indianapolis 16, Phoenix 13
Minnesota 6, Pittsburgh 3
N.Y. Giants 35, Kansas City 21

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WEEK 17

Chiefs, Redskins Earn Playoff Bids; Dolphins, Chargers Win Division Titles

DECEMBER 26

It had been a great day for Derrick Thomas.

"I guess you could say it was one of our best defensive games," the Chiefs' linebacker said. "I had a lot of fun."

On the other hand, the Denver Broncos had anything but. Led by Thomas, Kansas City's defense scored 3 touchdowns, set up a fourth, and had 6 sacks as the Chiefs ripped the Broncos 42-20 in a battle for the last AFC playoff berth.

As the regular season whirled to a close, Washington gained the last NFC playoff bid when playoff hopeful Green Bay lost. Meanwhile, Miami clinched the AFC East title, San Diego won the AFC West, and Pittsburgh earned home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs.

Al Messerschmidt

Joe Montana, out nearly two years with an elbow injury, returned and threw 2 touchdown passes.

Thomas seemed to spend most of his day in Denver's backfield in the Chiefs' victory. First, he hit John Elway, forcing him into an interception by safety Bennie Thompson. Thompson lateraled the ball to safety Charles Mincy, who returned it 32 yards for a touchdown.

Thomas also forced an Elway fumble in the end zone and recovered it for a touchdown, seized a fumble on the Denver 13 to set up a third score (after a sack by defensive end Neil Smith), and had 3 sacks.

Meanwhile, rookie cornerback Dale Carter returned an interception 36 yards for a touchdown, and Dave Krieg threw 2 short touchdown passes to tight end Jonathan Hayes.

The day after the game, Denver coach Dan Reeves, who had taken the Broncos to three Super Bowls, was fired.

Reeves was philosophical. "Life goes on," he said.

In Washington, the Redskins spent a depressing Saturday night, their playoff hopes hanging by a thread after they were surprised 21-20 by the Raiders.

Backup quarterback Vince Evans of Los Angeles passed for 2 touchdowns and rallied the Raiders twice in the fourth quarter, climaxing the winning 80-yard drive with a 3-yard touchdown pass to Tim Brown with 13 seconds left. Jeff Jaeger's conversion decided it.

"You dream of moments like that," the 37-year-old Evans said, "and when it happens, it's beautiful to see."

Twenty-four hours later the Redskins were in the playoffs anyway when the Packers, who had won six games in a row, lost to the Vikings 27-7 and were eliminated.

"It feels like I swallowed a rotten egg," Green Bay nose tackle John Jurkovic said.

Sean Salisbury passed for 292 yards and 2 touchdowns for the Vikings, Terry Allen ran for 100 yards and a score, and safety Vencie Glenn intercepted 3 passes. Allen's 100 yards increased his season total to 1,201, breaking Chuck Foreman's club record.

Green Bay's Sterling Sharpe caught 6 passes to give him 108 for the season, eclipsing Art Monk's NFL mark of 106.

In Seattle, the Chargers completed the best single-season turnaround in NFL history when they clinched the AFC West with a 31-14 victory over the Seahawks. San Diego finished with seven successive victories and 11 wins in 12 games to become the first team ever to start a season 0-4 and win a division title.

To win, the Chargers had to overcome the loss of quarterback Stan Humphries, who suffered a dislocated left shoulder late in the first half. But backup Bob Gagliano led second-half touchdown and field-goal drives, and the defense scored or set up 15 more points.

The Dolphins , who defeated New England 16-13 in overtime, claimed the AFC East title when Buffalo lost to Houston.

Players of the Week

AFC OFFENSE—**Vince Evans** came off the bench in the second quarter to pass for 214 yards and 2 touchdowns, leading the Raiders to a 21-20 victory over Washington. His 3-yard touchdown pass to Tim Brown with 13 seconds left (and a subsequent conversion) won the game.

AFC DEFENSE—Defensive tackle **Ray Childress** had 8 tackles, including 2 sacks, and broke up a pass to help Houston swamp Buffalo 27-3.

Scott Cunningham

Evans rallied the Raiders to victory.

Al Messerschmidt

Glenn had 3 interceptions.

NFC OFFENSE—**Emmitt Smith** ran for 131 yards and scored on a 31-yard run as Dallas upended the Bears 27-14. His big day gave him a club-record 1,713 yards for the season and his second successive NFL rushing title.

NFC DEFENSE—Safety **Vencie Glenn** had 3 interceptions and 2 solo tackles to help Minnesota hammer Green Bay 27-7.

Final Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Miami	11	5	0
Buffalo	11	5	0
Indianapolis	9	7	0
N.Y. Jets	4	12	0
New England	2	14	0
AFC Central			
Pittsburgh	11	5	0
Houston	10	6	0
Cleveland	7	9	0
Cincinnati	5	11	0
AFC West			
San Diego	11	5	0
Kansas City	10	6	0
Denver	8	8	0
L.A. Raiders	7	9	0
Seattle	2	14	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	13	3	0
Philadelphia	11	5	0
Washington	9	7	0
N.Y. Giants	6	10	0
Phoenix	4	12	0
NFC Central			
Minnesota	11	5	0
Green Bay	9	7	0
Tampa Bay	5	11	0
Chicago	5	11	0
Detroit	5	11	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	14	2	0
New Orleans	12	4	0
Atlanta	6	10	0
L.A. Rams	6	10	0

Scores

AFC
Houston 27, Buffalo 3
Indianapolis 21, Cincinnati 17
Kansas City 42, Denver 20
Miami 16, New England 13(OT)
Pittsburgh 23, Cleveland 13
San Diego 31, Seattle 14

NFC
Dallas 27, Chicago 14
L.A. Rams 38, Atlanta 27
Minnesota 27, Green Bay 7
Philadelphia 20, N.Y. Giants 10
San Francisco 24, Detroit 6
Tampa Bay 7, Phoenix 3

Interconference
L.A. Raiders 21, Washington 20
New Orleans 20, N.Y. Jets 0

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Andy Hayt

Rookie Todd Kinchen returned 2 punts for scores, tying the NFL record, as the Rams beat Atlanta 38-27.

It wasn't easy. New England led 13-3 at halftime and 13-6 after three quarters as rookie Scott Lockwood rushed for 123 yards.

However, Miami's Dan Marino led a 75-yard drive that ended with Bobby Humphrey's 1-yard touchdown run that tied the score with 2:53 left. Then, in overtime, Marino led a 47-yard drive that ended with Pete Stoyanovich's winning 35-yard field goal. It was Marino's sixth successful fourth-quarter comeback this season.

Miami coach Don Shula won his 300th regular-season game, second only to George Halas.

In Houston, everything went wrong for Buffalo. By losing to the Oilers 27-3, the Bills surrendered the AFC East title, lost a chance to have home-field advantage throughout the playoffs, were forced into a wild-card rematch the next week with Houston, and lost quarterback Jim Kelly with a sprained knee for at least the first playoff game.

Houston quarterback Warren Moon, who had missed five games with a broken arm, played three series in the second quarter, leading his team to 10 points and throwing a touchdown pass to Haywood Jeffires.

Marv Rubin

Quote

Pittsburgh tackle **Tunch Ilkin**, who rooted for Houston to beat Buffalo, so the Steelers would have home-field advantage through the playoffs:

"It stuck in my throat to cheer for the Oilers. It was like chewing on sand."

Pro Bowl Roster

American Football Conference

OFFENSE
Wide Receivers
*Anthony Miller, *San Diego*
*Haywood Jeffires, *Houston*
Andre Reed, *Buffalo*
Curtis Duncan, *Houston*
Ernest Givins, *Houston*
Tackles
*Richmond Webb, *Miami*
*Howard Ballard, *Buffalo*
Will Wolford, *Buffalo*
Guards
*Mike Munchak, *Houston*
*Steve Wisniewski, *L.A. Raiders*
Carlton Haselrig, *Pittsburgh*
Centers
*Bruce Matthews, *Houston*
Dermontti Dawson, *Pittsburgh*
Tight Ends
*Keith Jackson, *Miami*
Marv Cook, *New England*
Quarterbacks
*Dan Marino, *Miami*
Warren Moon, *Houston*
Jim Kelly, *Buffalo*
Running Backs
*Barry Foster, *Pittsburgh*
*Thurman Thomas, *Buffalo*
Lorenzo White, *Houston*
Harold Green, *Cincinnati*

DEFENSE
Ends
*Bruce Smith, *Buffalo*
*Leslie O'Neal, *San Diego*
Neil Smith, *Kansas City*
Interior Linemen
*Cortez Kennedy, *Seattle*
Ray Childress, *Houston*
Outside Linebackers
*Derrick Thomas, *Kansas City*
*Bryan Cox, *Miami*
Cornelius Bennett, *Buffalo*
Inside Linebackers
*Junior Seau, *San Diego*
*Al Smith, *Houston*
Michael Brooks, *Denver*
Cornerbacks
*Rod Woodson, *Pittsburgh*
*Gill Byrd, *San Diego*
Terry McDaniel, *L.A. Raiders*
Safeties
*Henry Jones, *Buffalo*
*Steve Atwater, *Denver*
Eugene Robinson, *Seattle*

SPECIALISTS
Punter
Rohn Stark, *Indianapolis*
Kicker
Nick Lowery, *Kansas City*
Kick Return Specialist
Clarence Verdin, *Indianapolis*
Special Teamer
Steve Tasker, *Buffalo*

National Football Conference

OFFENSE
Wide Receivers
*Jerry Rice, *San Francisco*
*Sterling Sharpe, *Green Bay*
Michael Irvin, *Dallas*
Andre Rison, *Atlanta*
Tackles
*Gary Zimmerman, *Minnesota*
*Lomas Brown, *Detroit*
Steve Wallace, *San Francisco*
Guards
*Randall McDaniel, *Minnesota*
*Guy McIntyre, *San Francisco*
Nate Newton, *Dallas*
Centers
*Joel Hilgenberg, *New Orleans*
Mark Stepnoski, *Dallas*
Tight Ends
*Jay Novacek, *Dallas*
Brent Jones, *San Francisco*
Quarterbacks
*Steve Young, *San Francisco*
Troy Aikman, *Dallas*
Brett Favre, *Green Bay*
Running Backs
*Emmitt Smith, *Dallas*
*Barry Sanders, *Detroit*
Ricky Watters, *San Francisco*
Rodney Hampton, *N.Y. Giants*

DEFENSE
Ends
*Reggie White, *Philadelphia*
*Chris Doleman, *Minnesota*
Clyde Simmons, *Philadelphia*
Interior Linemen
*Pierce Holt, *San Francisco*
Henry Thomas, *Minnesota*
Outside Linebackers
*Pat Swilling, *New Orleans*
*Rickey Jackson, *New Orleans*
Wilber Marshall, *Washington*
Inside Linebackers
*Sam Mills, *New Orleans*
*Jessie Tuggle, *Atlanta*
Vaughan Johnson, *New Orleans*
Cornerbacks
*Deion Sanders, *Atlanta*
*Audray McMillian, *Minnesota*
Eric Allen, *Philadelphia*
Safeties
*Tim McDonald, *Phoenix*
*Chuck Cecil, *Green Bay*
Todd Scott, *Minnesota*

SPECIALISTS
Punter
Rich Camarillo, *Phoenix*
Kicker
Morten Andersen, *New Orleans*
Kick Return Specialist
Mel Gray, *Detroit*
Special Teamer
Elbert Shelley, *Atlanta*
**Prospective Starters*

The victorious Oilers also had 7 sacks, 3 by end Lee Williams.

In Pittsburgh, the Steelers seized what Buffalo couldn't—home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs—with a 23-13 victory over Cleveland. Bubby Brister completed 18 of 25 passes, 1 for a touchdown, and Barry Foster ran for 103 yards and another score. Foster's 100-yard game was his twelfth in 1992, equaling Eric Dickerson's single-season NFL record.

Pittsburgh's Bill Cowher was one of three new NFL head coaches to go 11-5, joining San Diego's Bobby Ross and Minnesota's Dennis Green.

The Colts' Ted Marchibroda, another new coach, had a big year, too, as his team rallied to beat Cincinnati 21-17 for its fifth win in a row. The Colts finished 9-7 after going 1-15 in 1991. The eight-game improvement equaled the second-best in NFL history.

The fired up Bengals had led 17-0 at halftime, as tackle Anthony Muñoz, an 11-time Pro Bowl selection who was retiring, sprang Derrick Fenner on 12- and 35-yard touchdown runs.

In the second half, however, the Colts' Jack Trudeau replaced injured Jeff George. Trudeau threw 2 touchdown passes, then handed off to Rodney Culver, who ran 36 yards for the winning score with 7:31 left.

In Philadelphia, the Eagles headed for the playoffs with the momentum of a four-game winning streak after beating the Giants 20-10. Randall Cunningham threw a 34-yard touchdown pass to Calvin Williams and scored on a 20-yard run, while Herschel Walker rushed for 104 yards.

Three days later, Giants coach Ray Handley, 14-18 in his two seasons, was fired.

In San Francisco, the 49ers finished with an eight-game winning streak after polishing off the Lions 24-6 on a rainy Monday night. But the return of quarterback Joe Montana overshadowed the game.

Appearing in his first regular-season game in two years, Montana showed no ill effects from his torn right elbow tendon. He played the entire second half and led the 49ers to 17 fourth-quarter points.

The 36-year-old quarterback threw short touchdown passes to tight end Brent Jones and running back Amp Lee, hit 15 of 21 attempts, and scrambled for 28 yards on 3 carries.

"I didn't think I'd be so nervous," Montana said. "I was being too cautious [at first]. Once I settled down, I got a lot more confident." ☆

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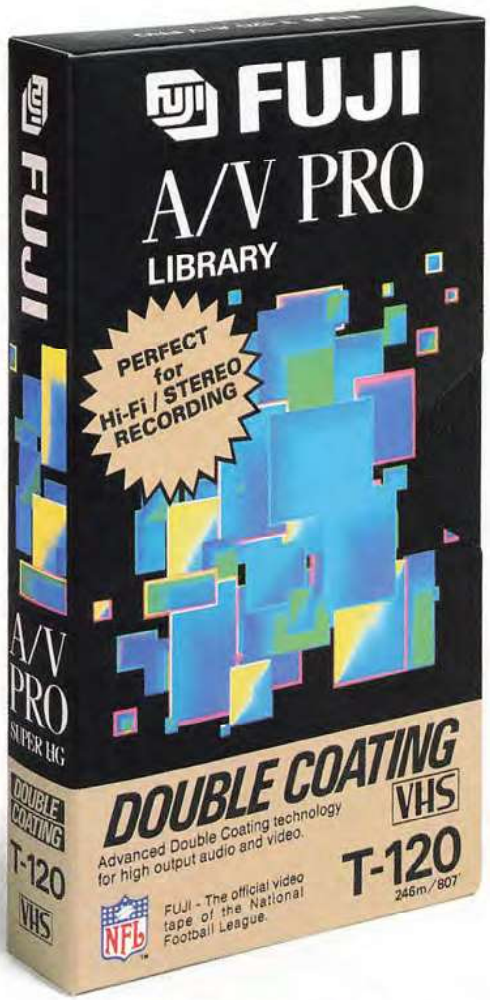

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WEEK 18

Comeback to End All Comebacks Gets Bills Past Oilers; Eagles Also Need Rally to Beat Saints; Chargers, Redskins Win

JANUARY 2

AFC Playoffs

You had to see it to believe it.

Trailing Houston 35-3 early in the third quarter, Buffalo scored 35 consecutive points behind backup quarterback Frank Reich, gave up a tying field goal, then won41-38 in overtime on Steve Christie's 32-yard field goal.

The Bills' frenzied comeback from a 32-point deficit was the greatest in NFL history—and even they were shocked.

"It's just unbelievable," wide receiver Don Beebe said. "I just can't believe it. I just can't believe it."

Neither could the Oilers, who had beaten the Bills 27-3 the week before and thought they were on their way to doing it again on the NFL's wild-card weekend.

"It ended up being a disaster," Houston wide receiver Haywood Jeffires said.

The Bills even pulled it off without three injured Pro Bowl players—quarterback Jim Kelly and linebacker Cornelius Bennett, both of whom missed the entire game, and running back Thurman Thomas, who sat out all but one series of the second half.

In San Diego, the Chargers sacked Dave Krieg 7 times and got 119 rushing yards from Marion Butts to shut out Kansas City 17-0. The victory was the Chargers' eighth in a row and improved the team's record to 12-1 after an 0-4 start.

"We're young, but we're a great team," San Diego linebacker Junior Seau said. "When we play as a team, I don't think anyone can stop us."

Buffalo's Steve Christie (2) joined his teammates in celebrating his game-winning field goal.

Bills 41, Oilers 38

For the first 30 minutes, Bills fans witnessed one of the greatest passing exhibitions in NFL history—but it was by Houston's Warren Moon.

In his first game as a starter since breaking his left arm in mid-November, Moon completed 19 of 22 passes for 4 first-half touchdowns as the Oilers jumped to a 28-3 lead.

"He was like a surgeon," Buffalo linebacker Darryl Talley said.

The 36-year-old Moon's scoring passes went to Jeffires (3 and 27 yards), Webster Slaughter (7 yards), and Curtis Duncan (26 yards).

At halftime, Buffalo reserve quarterback Gale Gilbert tried to encourage Reich by reminding him of his record-setting college comeback—a 1984 game in which he rallied Maryland from a 31-0, third-quarter deficit to a 42-40 victory over Miami.

But Reich's third pass of the second half bounced off tight end Keith McKeller's hands, and safety Bubba McDowell returned it 58 yards for another touchdown. Now the Bills trailed 35-3.

Reich immediately drove his team 50 yards to Kenneth Davis's 1-yard touchdown run. Christie then recovered his own onside kick, and Buffalo went 52 yards to score again, on Reich's 38-yard pass to Beebe.

Reich went on to lead 3 more touchdown drives, helped by a short Houston punt, an interception by Bills safety Henry Jones, and a botched Houston field-goal attempt. The Bills' quarterback finished off the drives with 26-, 18-, and 17-yard touchdown passes to Andre Reed, the last with 3:08 left in regulation to give Buffalo a 38-35 lead.

Moon retaliated by driving the Oilers 63 yards to Al Del Greco's tying 26-yard field goal with 12 seconds left.

But Moon's third pass in overtime was intercepted by cornerback Nate Odomes, and a facemask penalty on the play put the Bills on the Houston 20. They moved to the 14 to set up Christie's winning kick.

In the locker room, Buffalo coach Marv Levy was asked what he thought of his team's chances when the score was 35-3.

"There was a glimmer of hope," Levy said. "I figured we had the same chance as we would have to win the New York lottery."

Chargers 17, Chiefs 0

In their first playoff game since the 1982 season, the Chargers were locked in a scoreless tie with the Chiefs halfway through the third quarter on a rainy day in San Diego.

Then 248-pound Marion Butts bolted up the middle, broke two tackles—the last one by safety Charles Mincy—and ran 54 yards for a San Diego touchdown.

"I'm not fast," Butts said later. "But I have satisfactory speed when I'm being chased." Butts gained his 119 yards on only 15 carries.

Chuck Solomon

Paul Spinelli/NFLP

San Diego's Blaise Winter (96, above) and Leslie O'Neal sacked Dave Krieg. Marion Butts (left) ran for 119 yards.

On the next series, San Diego defensive end Leslie O'Neal, who had 2 sacks, made a leaping interception of a pass by Dave Krieg that was deflected by tackle Blaise Winter. That set up John Carney's 34-yard field goal for a 10-0 lead.

In the final period, quarterback Stan Humphries, playing despite a dislocated left shoulder, led a 90-yard drive for the Chargers' clinching touchdown, which came on Steve Hendrickson's 5-yard run.

Paul Spinelli/NFLP

NFC Playoffs

In New Orleans, the Saints jumped to a 20-7 third-quarter lead over the Eagles, but after what Buffalo had done a couple of hours earlier, what was 13 points?

Not enough, it turned out. In Sunday's second great comeback, the Eagles scored the last 29 points, won the fourth quarter 26-0, and broke the hearts of the host Saints 36-20.

It was Philadelphia's first playoff victory since 1980, the season the team advanced to the Super Bowl. It left New Orleans as the only NFL team that never has won a playoff game (now 0-4).

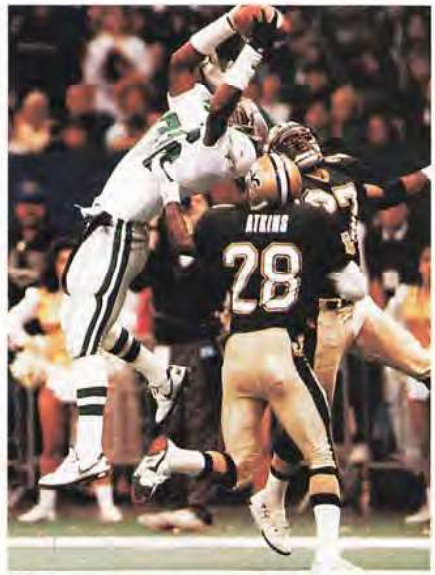
"I felt like this was the best of our four playoff teams," Saints linebacker Sam Mills said. "To let it get away like this is just unbelievable."

"I really didn't see this game as them crumbling," Eagles linebacker Seth Joyner said. "I saw it as us making big plays."

The Redskins made a lot of big plays in Minneapolis, where they controlled the ball nearly 43 minutes, scored the game's last 24 points, and whipped the Vikings 24-7.

The victory by the defending Super Bowl champions improved coach Joe Gibbs's playoff record to 16-4.

"This has been kind of a hectic year for us," Gibbs said. "We've had a lot of adversity, and yet we're still here. We're still alive."



Joe Patronite

Bob Rosato

The Eagles' Fred Barnett (above) scored on this leaping 35-yard catch. Reggie White (below) got a safety.

Eagles 36, Saints 20

At halftime, the Saints led in first downs and total yards (14-4 and 250-121). They also led on the scoreboard (17-7) on Craig Heyward's 1-yard touchdown run, Morten Andersen's 35-yard field goal, and Bobby Hebert's 7-yard touchdown pass to Quinn Early.

In response, Eagles coach Rich Kotite reminded his players of Buffalo's comeback from a 32-point deficit earlier that day.

"We're down ten points. What's the big deal?" Kotite said at halftime.

In the third quarter, however, they were down 13, as the Saints increased their lead to 20-7 on Andersen's second field goal.

Then the Eagles came storming back on three interceptions off Bobby Hebert, the passing of Randall Cunningham, and the running of Heath Sherman, to win their fifth game in a row. Sherman ran for 105 yards, 82 of them in the second half.

The big rally began with the first of cornerback Eric Allen's 2 inteceptions, which led to a field goal by Roger Ruzek.

Then, Cunningham, who had thrown a 57-yard touchdown pass to Fred Barnett in the first half, fired one of 35 yards that Barnett leaped to catch between two defenders in the end zone, cutting the Saints' lead to 20-17.

Joyner's interception return to the Saints' 26 set up another drive, which ended with Sherman's 6-yard touchdown run with 6:48 left. That gave the Eagles their first lead at 24-20.

Philadelphia kept attacking to put the game away on defensive end Reggie White's sack of Hebert for a safety, Ruzek's 39-yard field goal after the free kick, and Allen's 18-yard interception return for the final touchdown.

"We finally did it!" White said later. "Everybody went out in the second half and played their tails off."

Redskins 24, Vikings 7

An injury had sidelined running back Ricky Ervins, so Gibbs decided to use kick returner Brian Mitchell as a backup to Earnest Byner. Mitchell proceeded to outgain Byner.

A former college quarterback, Mitchell ran for 109 yards and a touchdown, set up his own touchdown with a 38-yard run on a fake punt, caught 3 passes for 16 yards, and had 84 return yards for a total of 209 yards in all.

"I didn't expect to play as much as I did," Mitchell said, "but coach put me in and left me in."

Byner had 62 yards and a touchdown of his own, and Mark Rypien threw a 24-yard pass to Gary Clark for another score.

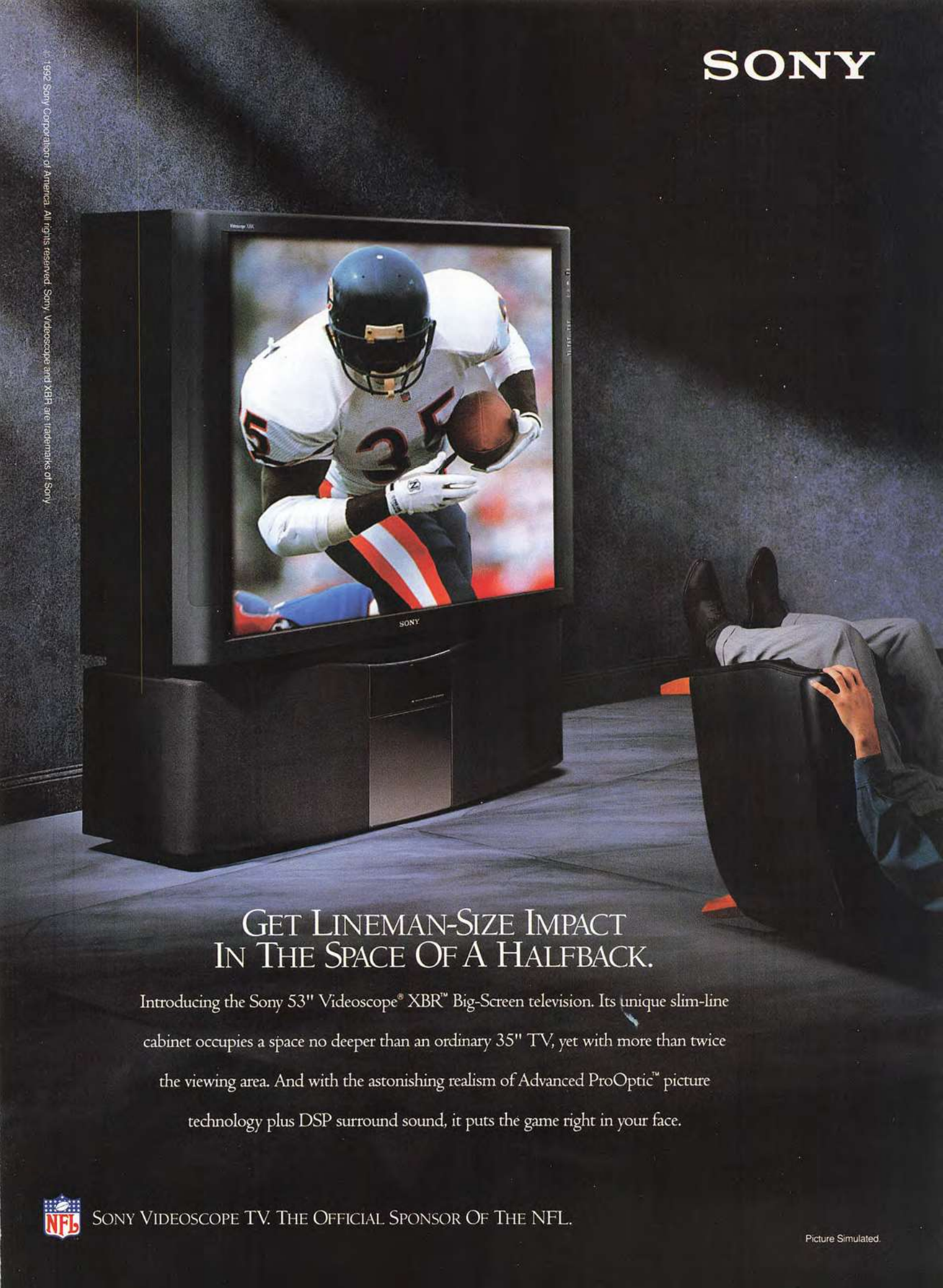
Washington thoroughly dominated the game after the Vikings took a 7-0 first-quarter lead on Terry Allen's 1-yard touchdown run. The Redskins led by a huge margin in first downs (24-9), yards (358-148), and plays (73-41).

Joe Patronite

Scott Cunningham

Washington's Brian Mitchell (above) rushed for 109 yards, including 38 on this fake punt play as the Redskins beat the Vikings. Gary Clark (below) caught a 24-yard scoring pass.

On defense, end Fred Stokes had 3 of Washington's 4 sacks of Minnesota's Sean Salisbury. Cornerback Martin Mayhew set up the Redskins' field goal with an interception, and safety Brad Edwards set up a touchdown with another interception. ☆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WEEK 19

Dolphins, Bills Head for AFC Title Game; 49ers, Cowboys Keep Rolling in NFC

JANUARY 9

AFC Playoffs

Just what was this anyhow, the AFC Championship Game or an AFC East showdown?

Well, it would be both.

Miami and Buffalo, two old adversaries from the AFC East, breezed into the AFC title game by outscoring their opponents by a combined 55-3 on Divisional Playoff weekend.

On a rainy day in Miami, the Dolphins took a 21-0 halftime lead on 3 touchdown passes by Dan Marino (2 to tight end Keith Jackson) and routed the Chargers 31-0. It was Miami's fourth win in a row.

"We're one step closer to that goal of winning a Super Bowl," Marino said. "That's why this one is nice."

Allen Kee

Miami's Keith Jackson caught 2 scoring passes, including this 30-yarder, against San Diego.

In Pittsburgh, the Bills outscored the Steelers 17-0 in the second half, won the game 24-3, and reached the AFC Championship Game for the third year in a row. Frank Reich, replacing injured Jim Kelly for the second successive week, threw 2 touchdown passes.

"I thought our team would come in and play well," Buffalo coach Marv Levy said. "Their goal was to go beyond last week's victory [against Houston]."

Dolphins 31, Chargers 0

The Chargers came to Miami as the hottest team in the AFC, boasting an eight-game winning streak and a 12-1 record in their last 13 games. But Miami was almost perfect.

"It was an ugly game," Chargers coach Bobby Ross said after seeing his first season end in defeat. "We just didn't do anything right. Give Miami credit. They did a lot of things right that made us look bad."

On defense, the Dolphins intercepted Stan Humphries 4 times, recovered a fumble, set up 3 touchdowns, and threw up a blockade at the 50-yard line. The Chargers crossed midfield only three times in 15 possessions, and never went farther than the Miami 40. Punter Reggie Roby pinned them inside their own 10 three times.

On offense, the Dolphins rushed for 157 yards, passed for 167, and had only one turnover. Neither the Miami offense nor the defense committed a penalty.

The Dolphins broke open a scoreless game with a 21-point second quarter as rookie cornerback Troy Vincent and second-year linebacker Bryan Cox combined for 3 interceptions.

Vincent's 2 interceptions gave the Dolphins the ball at the San Diego 48- and 37-yard lines, and Cox put them at the Chargers' 12. Marino took them into the end zone all three times.

He climaxed the first drive by faking to running back Bobby Humphrey and passing to fullback Tony Paige for a 1-yard touchdown.

He ended the last two drives with successive touchdown passes to Jackson 79 seconds apart. The first was a 9-yard lob to the end zone, the second a 30-yard shot down the middle.

Pete J Groh

Buffalo's James Lofton caught a 17-yard touchdown pass over Sammy Walker.

It was a big explosion for an offense that had scored only 6 touchdowns in its last 6½ games.

"We've been saying this offense had to come out of the closet sooner or later," Jackson said.

Marino had thrown touchdown passes in nine successive playoff games, one behind Ken Stabler's NFL record.

Bills 24, Steelers 3

The Steelers scored on their first series of the game, driving to Gary Anderson's 38-yard field goal. Then Buffalo scored the game's last 24 points.

However, the game was closer than the final score. With AFC rushing leader Barry Foster running for 104 yards, Pittsburgh drove inside the Bills' 40-yard line five times after its opening field-goal drive, but came up scoreless each time.

The Steelers also missed a huge opportunity on defense to shock the Bills and take a 10-7 lead late in the third quarter.

Buffalo led 7-3 when Reich lobbed a second-down pass from the Pittsburgh 17 that was intended for Don Beebe. Pittsburgh cornerback Richard Shelton cut in front of Beebe, and, with a clear path to the end zone, bobbled the ball, then dropped it.

"You have to forget about it at the time, but I'll think about it tomorrow," Shelton said.

On the next play, Reich fired a 17-yard touchdown pass to James Lofton to give Buffalo a big 14-3 lead.

The Bills put it away in the fourth quarter, adding a field goal and Carwell Gardner's 1-yard touchdown run that was set up by 41- and 18-yard runs by Kenneth Davis. Davis ran for 104 yards on only 10 carries.

Reich also threw a 1-yard touchdown pass to reserve offensive lineman Mitch Frerotte in the second quarter. It was the third touchdown catch of the season for Frerotte, who lined up in the backfield as a blocker. Defensive end Phil Hansen's fumble recovery (forced by end Bruce Smith) set up the score.

"This feels great," Reich said. "Bruce said last week that if we continue to play like this, there's no telling where we can go.

"I said, 'Yes, there is. We'll go to the Super Bowl.'"

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NFC Playoffs

With about 10 minutes left in the fourth quarter, the San Francisco 49ers, owners of the best record in the NFL at 14-2, were reeling.

The defending Super Bowl-champion Redskins had scored 10 points on the last two series, had trimmed San Francisco's lead to 17-13, and had marched to a first down at the 49ers' 23.

Bob Rosato

The 49ers' Brent Jones (84) recovered his own fumble while scoring on a 16-yard pass from Steve Young.

But when quarterback Mark Rypien tried to hand off the ball to Brian Mitchell, it slipped out of his hand, bounced off Mitchell's leg and was recovered by 49ers linebacker Mike Walter on the 28.

Seizing their chance, the 49ers took 7:01 off the clock on a 57-yard drive to Mike Cofer's second field goal, then held on to win their ninth game in a row, 20-13. They were on their way to their fourth NFC Championship Game in the last five years.

"It was crazy," 49ers tight end Brent Jones said. "We should have put them away. It should have been a 48-10 game. It really should have been. We were in position, but we just had goofy things happen."

Not many goofy things happened at Dallas, however, where the Cowboys roared into the NFC title game with a surprisingly easy 34-10 victory over the Eagles.

Emmitt Smith ran for 114 yards and a touchdown, Troy Aikman threw 2 touchdown passes, and the top-ranked Dallas defense held the Eagles to 178 yards and 12 first downs.

"It's a big win," Dallas coach Jimmy Johnson said. "But we've got bigger ones coming."

49ers 20, Redskins 13

After several days of heavy rain, Candlestick Park was not only muddy, it was pockmarked with large holes.

"It looked like mortar shells had exploded," Jones said.

The ball seemed to explode, too, as the two clubs turned it over a total of 8 times, (4 each).

"It was kind of wild out there for both teams," Washington coach Joe Gibbs said. "That's the worst field I've ever seen. I think it hurt both teams."

Something bothered 49ers quarterback Steve Young. Although he threw 2 touchdown passes for a 17-3 halftime lead, Young also suffered all 4 of his team's turnovers—an interception that stoppped a drive and 3 fumbles that led to all 13 Washington points.

Safety Brad Edwards, linebacker Monte Coleman, and end Charles Mann recovered Young's fumbles. End Fred Stokes forced 2 of them.

"You know what I could have used out there?" Young asked. "Krazy Glue."

But the 49ers had good luck, too, scoring their last 10 points after turnovers. Young also got a big break on his first touchdown pass, a 5-yard, first-quarter toss to John Taylor. In the end zone, the ball went in and out of the hands of Redskins cornerback A.J. Johnson and bounced right behind him to Taylor.

Young also threw a 16-yard touchdown pass to Jones in the second quarter.

Ricky Watters balanced the 49ers' attack with 83 yards rushing, while end Pierce Holt sparked the defense with 3 of his team's 5 sacks.

Late in the third quarter and early in the fourth, Washington took advantage of turnovers to score on Chip Lohmiller's second field goal and Rypien's 1-yard sneak, slicing the 49ers' lead to 17-13. Then came the costly final fumble.

"The ball just came out," Rypien said later. "It's kind of the way our season went. Mistakes just killed us. The worst thing about the fumble was that Mitchell had a big hole."

Cowboys 34, Eagles 10

The Eagles came to Dallas with a five-game winning streak, and immediately drove to Roger Ruzek's 32-yard field goal for a 3-0 lead on the game's first series.

But Kelvin Martin returned the next kickoff 39 yards, and Dallas drove 46 more for a touchdown. The Cowboys never trailed again. They went on to score 34 unanswered points and, in the second and third quarters, they outgained the Eagles with 223 total yards to 10.

Aikman threw 1- and 6-yard touchdown passes to tight ends Derek Tennell and Jay Novacek, Smith scored on a 23-yard run, Derrick Gainer scored on a 1-yard run, and Lin Elliott kicked 2 field goals.

Besides choking off the Eagles with only 178 yards, the Cowboys' defense sacked Randall Cunningham 5 times. End Tony Tolbert and tackle Russell Maryland had 2 sacks each.

Bob Rosato

Joe Patronite

End Tony Tolbert (92, above) had 2 of the Cowboys' 5 sacks, while Emmitt Smith (left) scored on a 23-yard run.

The Eagles scored their only touchdown in the last minute when Cunningham scrambled and threw an 18-yard, fourth-down pass to Calvin Williams.

"I think our defense epitomizes our entire team," Johnson said. "As great a player as Aikman is and Emmitt Smith is and Michael Irvin is, it's a team game. And we played great team defense."

"The Cowboys make plays, they rock you back on your heels, and just keep on coming," Cunningham said. "They never let up." ☆

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WEEK 20

Bills Dominate Dolphins; Cowboys Stop 49ers to Gain Super Bowl

JANUARY 17

Bills 29, Dolphins 10

Jim Kelly was elated.

"This is without a doubt the sweetest victory I've ever been involved with," the Bills' quarterback said. "In the beginning of the week, it was like I had to apologize for feeling good."

The sweetest victory—his team's dominating 29-10 win over the Dolphins in the AFC Championship Game at Miami—had put Buffalo in the Super Bowl for the third consecutive year. Kelly and the Bills also became the first wild-card team to go to the big game since New England in Super Bowl XX.

Bob Rosato

Jim Kelly hit 17 of 24 passes as he led the Bills to their third successive Super Bowl appearance.

But this one was particularly special for Kelly because he had missed the first two playoff games with a sprained knee while backup Frank Reich led the Bills to victories over Houston and Pittsburgh.

When Kelly's knee improved and he was named to start the championship game, it was a controversial choice among Bills fans. In a poll taken by a newspaper, Buffalo fans—by an overwhelming margin—said they wanted Reich to start.

"I can't think of a time when a quarterback entered a game under more pressure than Jim Kelly did," Buffalo coach Marv Levy said. "I'm immensely proud of him and how he handled the situation."

Kelly handled the situation by playing the entire game and completing 17 of 24 passes as the Bills became just the second team ever to earn three successive Super Bowl trips.

Don Shula and Miami went to three in a row in 1971-73, and Shula, in his twenty-third year with the Dolphins, had hoped to take his sixth Dolphins team back to the Super Bowl.

"It was a real disappointment that we didn't play better in a game that meant so much to us," Shula said. "But I give Buffalo all the credit in the world. They played an outstanding ball game."

On offense, the Bills held the ball for more than 36 minutes, running for 182 yards and passing for 176. On defense, Buffalo forced 5 turnovers, setting up 2 field goals and a touchdown, held Miami to 33 rushing yards, and sacked Dan Marino 4 times. The Dolphins also dropped 8 passes.

Both Thurman Thomas (166 yards) and Kenneth Davis (113) gained more than 100 yards from scrimmage for Buffalo, while Steve Christie equaled an NFL playoff record by kicking 5 field goals (21, 33, 21, 31, and 38 yards).

Thomas, bothered by a hip pointer and a groin strain earlier in the playoffs, ran for 96 yards and caught 5 passes for 70 more, including a 17-yard screen pass for a touchdown. His scoring catch gave the Bills the lead for good at 10-3.

Davis rushed for 61 yards and caught 4 passes for 52 more. His 2-yard touchdown run boosted Buffalo's 13-3 halftime lead to 20-3 early in the third quarter.

Turnovers set up 13 of the Bills' first 20 points. Linebacker Darryl Talley recovered a fumble and end Phil Hansen intercepted a pass to set up 2 field goals. Running back Carwell Gardner recovered a fumble on the second-half kickoff that led to Davis's touchdown.

The Bills received even more luck on that touchdown drive, when Miami end Marco Coleman recovered a Thomas fumble, then lost it right back to Buffalo wide receiver Don Beebe at the Miami 8.

"I said coming in that the key to the game was not turning it over," Marino said. "You can't keep giving them the ball."

Buffalo stretched its lead to 26-3 in the fourth quarter, before Marino hit Mark Duper with a 15-yard touchdown pass. It was the tenth successive playoff game that Marino had thrown a touchdown pass, tying Ken Stabler's NFL record.

But, for Miami, it was too little, too late.

Buffalo's Kenneth Davis (above) and Thurman Thomas each totaled over 100 yards rushing and receiving.

Bob Rosato

Cowboys 30, 49ers 20

When he greeted the media after the game, Dallas coach Jimmy Johnson couldn't contain himself.

"How 'bout them Cowboys?" he said happily.

How 'bout them Cowboys, indeed. A

Paul Spinelli/NFLP

Emmitt Smith ran for 114 yards as Dallas controlled the ball for more than 35 minutes.

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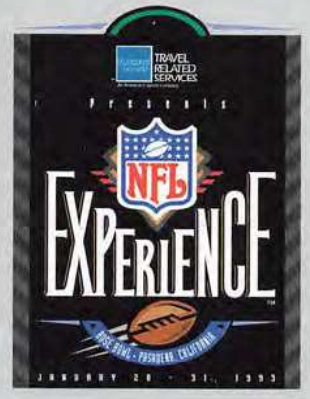

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WEEK TWENTY

Paul Spinelli/NFLP

Dallas's Daryl Johnston scored a touchdown and recovered a fumble to set up a field goal.

franchise that was 1-15 in 1989 had come all the way back to the Super Bowl, earning the sixth big-game trip in club history—and first since 1978—with a 30-20 victory over the 49ers in soggy Candlestick Park.

It was a matchup of teams with the NFL's best records, but Dallas (14-3) took the lead for good in the third quarter, stayed aggressive to the finish, and was clearly stronger than San Francisco (15-2) at the end. The loss snapped the 49ers' nine-game winning streak.

"In the second half, they took control of the ball game," 49ers coach George Seifert said. "We couldn't take command in the first half, when I thought we played our best football."

The score was 10-10 at intermission, but Dallas won with three long, second-half touchdown drives (78, 79, and 79 yards), the last one clinching the victory after the 49ers had tried to rally late in the fourth quarter.

San Francisco's Steve Young had moved his team 93 quick yards to a touchdown, throwing a 5-yard scoring pass to Jerry Rice with 4:22 left. It shaved the Cowboys' lead to 24-20, and the large 49ers crowd was roaring as Dallas began the next series from its own 21.

But, on first down, Troy Aikman fired a pass to Alvin Harper, who raced 70 yards to the 49ers' 9 to set up the clinching touchdown. On third down from the 6, Aikman passed to Kelvin Martin, who lunged to the goal line for the score and a 30-20 lead. (The conversion failed.)

"That's been our style all year," Johnson said of the first-down pass to Harper. "From the opening whistle, we were going to play aggressive football in all phases of the game.

"I thought Troy did a fantastic job. Emmitt Smith did a great job. Who can you say didn't do a great job for us today?"

On a field soaked by rain, Aikman passed for 322 yards and 2 touchdowns, including a 16-yard collaboration with Smith that climaxed the first 79-yard drive. It gave Dallas a 24-13 lead in the fourth quarter.

Smith also rushed for 114 yards, caught 7 passes for 59 more (a total of 173 yards from scrimmage), and scored on a 4-yard run. Daryl Johnston scored on a 3-yard run, and Lin Elliott kicked a 20-yard field goal. Dallas had the ball for more than 35 minutes.

Turnovers also helped decide the outcome. The 49ers made 4 of them (2 fumbles and 2 interceptions), with 2 setting up the Cowboys' first 10 points. The Cowboys had no turnovers.

Johnston recovered a fumble on a punt return to set up the field goal, while cornerback Kevin Smith grabbed a fumble to set up a touchdown.

The 49ers also had a devastating penalty on the third play of the game. Young and Rice teamed on a 63-yard touchdown pass, but it was nullified by a holding penalty on guard Guy McIntyre.

"I was in the end zone giving fans high-fives and noticed that my teammates weren't celebrating," Rice said. "That's when I knew the touchdown was called back.

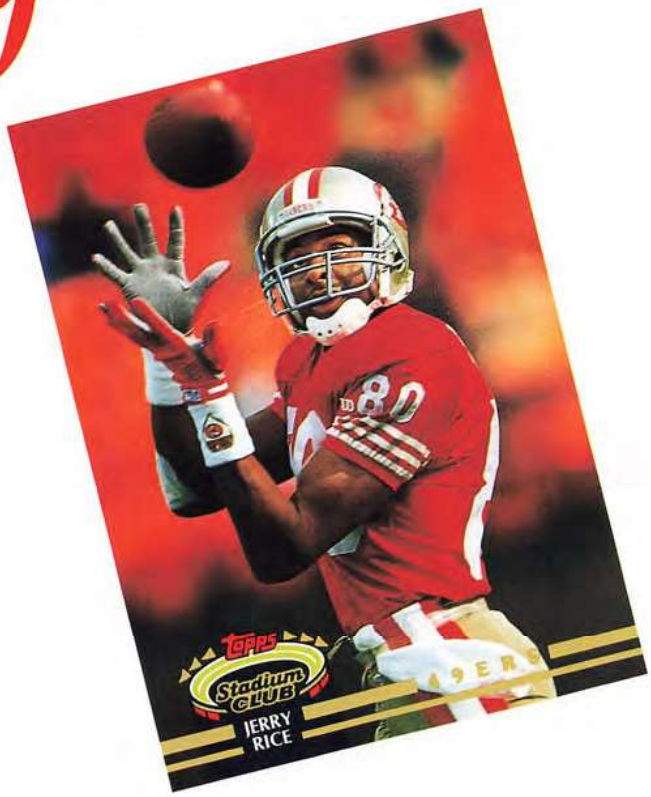
"It takes a lot out of a team when you lose a big play like that."

Still, the 49ers never stopped firing. Young passed for 313 yards and scored on a 1-yard sneak to give his team a short-lived 7-3 lead. Rice caught 8 passes for 123 yards, including his 5-yard touchdown catch. Ricky Watters ran for 69 yards and caught 6 passes for 69 more. Mike Cofer kicked 28- and 42-yard field goals.

But it was the young Cowboys who could look forward to another game.

"We're very excited about reaching the Super Bowl," Aikman said. ☆

Congratulations...



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NFL INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

1992 STATISTICS

AFC LEADING PASSERS

	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Yds	Avg Gain	TD	Pct TD	Long	Int	Pct Int	Rating Points
Warren Moon, Houston	346	224	64.7	2,521	7.29	18	5.2	72	12	3.5	89.3
Dan Marino, Miami	554	330	59.6	4,116	7.43	24	4.3	62t	16	2.9	85.1
Neil O'Donnell, Pittsburgh	313	185	59.1	2,283	7.29	13	4.2	51	9	2.9	83.6
Jim Kelly, Buffalo	462	269	58.2	3,457	7.48	23	5.0	65t	19	4.1	81.2
Cody Carlson, Houston	227	149	65.6	1,710	7.53	9	4.0	65	11	4.8	81.2
Dave Krieg, Kansas City	413	230	55.7	3,115	7.54	15	3.6	77t	12	2.9	79.9
Stan Humphries, San Diego	454	263	57.9	3,356	7.39	16	3.5	67t	18	4.0	76.4
John Elway, Denver	316	174	55.1	2,242	7.09	10	3.2	80t	17	5.4	65.7
Jay Schroeder, L.A. Raiders	253	123	48.6	1,476	5.83	11	4.3	53	11	4.3	63.3
Jeff George, Indianapolis	306	167	54.6	1,963	6.42	7	2.3	57t	15	4.9	61.5

NFC LEADING PASSERS

	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Yds	Avg Gain	TD	Pct TD	Long	Int	Pct Int	Rating Points
Steve Young, San Francisco	402	268	66.7	3,465	8.62	25	6.2	80t	7	1.7	107.0
Chris Miller, Atlanta	253	152	60.1	1,739	6.87	15	5.9	89t	6	2.4	90.7
Troy Aikman, Dallas	473	302	63.8	3,445	7.28	23	4.9	87t	14	3.0	89.5
Randall Cunningham, Phil.	384	233	60.7	2,775	7.23	19	4.9	75t	11	2.9	87.3
Brett Favre, Green Bay	471	302	64.1	3,227	6.85	18	3.8	76t	13	2.8	85.3
Bobby Hebert, New Orleans	422	249	59.0	3,287	7.79	19	4.5	72t	16	3.8	82.9
Jim Everett, L.A. Rams	475	281	59.2	3,323	7.00	22	4.6	67t	18	3.8	80.2
Chris Chandler, Phoenix	413	245	59.3	2,832	6.86	15	3.6	72t	15	3.6	77.1
Jim Harbaugh, Chicago	358	202	56.4	2,486	6.94	13	3.6	83t	12	3.4	76.2
Vinny Testaverde, Tampa Bay	358	206	57.5	2,554	7.13	14	3.9	81t	16	4.5	74.2

AFC LEADING RUSHERS

	Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Barry Foster, Pittsburgh	390	1,690	4.3	69	11
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo	312	1,487	4.8	44	9
Lorenzo White, Houston	265	1,226	4.6	44	7
Harold Green, Cincinnati	265	1,170	4.4	53	2
Chris Warren, Seattle	223	1,017	4.6	52	3
Mark Higgs, Miami	256	915	3.6	23	7
Marion Butts, San Diego	218	809	3.7	22	4
Eric Dickerson, L.A. Raiders	187	729	3.9	40t	2
Brad Baxter, N.Y. Jets	152	698	4.6	30	6
Gaston Green, Denver	161	648	4.0	67t	2

NFC LEADING RUSHERS

	Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Emmitt Smith, Dallas	373	1,713	4.6	68t	18
Barry Sanders, Detroit	312	1,352	4.3	55t	9
Terry Allen, Minnesota	266	1,201	4.5	51	13
Reggie Cobb, Tampa Bay	310	1,171	3.8	25	9
Rodney Hampton, N.Y. Giants	257	1,141	4.4	63t	14
Cleveland Gary, L.A. Rams	279	1,125	4.0	63	7
Herschel Walker, Philadelphia	267	1,070	4.0	38	8
Ricky Watters, San Francisco	206	1,013	4.9	43	9
Earnest Byner, Washington	262	998	3.8	23	6
Johnnie Johnson, Phoenix	178	734	4.1	42t	6

AFC LEADING SCORERS, TOUCHDOWNS

	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo	12	9	3	0	72
Barry Foster, Pittsburgh	11	11	0	0	66
Ernest Givins, Houston	10	0	10	0	60
Rodney Culver, Indianapolis	9	7	2	0	54
Haywood Jeffires, Houston	9	0	9	0	54
Derrick Fenner, Cincinnati	8	7	1	0	48
Mark Jackson, Denver	8	0	8	0	48
Anthony Miller, San Diego	8	0	7	1	48
Lorenzo White, Houston	8	7	1	0	48

NFC LEADING SCORERS, TOUCHDOWNS

	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
Emmitt Smith, Dallas	19	18	1	0	114
Terry Allen, Minnesota	15	13	2	0	90
Rodney Hampton, N.Y. Giants	14	14	0	0	84
Sterling Sharpe, Green Bay	13	0	13	0	78
Neal Anderson, Chicago	11	5	6	0	66
Jerry Rice, San Francisco	11	1	10	0	66
Andre Rison, Atlanta	11	0	11	0	66
Ricky Watters, San Francisco	11	9	2	0	66
Cleveland Gary, L.A. Rams	10	7	3	0	60
Michael Haynes, Atlanta	10	0	10	0	60
Barry Sanders, Detroit	10	9	1	0	60
Herschel Walker, Philadelphia	10	8	2	0	60

AFC LEADING SCORERS, KICKING

	PAT	FG	Long	Pts
Pete Stoyanovich, Miami	34-36	30-37	53	124
Steve Christie, Buffalo	43-44	24-30	54	115
Gary Anderson, Pittsburgh	29-31	28-36	49	113
John Carney, San Diego	35-35	26-32	50	113
Nick Lowery, Kansas City	39-39	22-24	52	105
Al Del Greco, Houston	41-41	21-27	54	104
Matt Stover, Cleveland	29-30	21-29	51	92
Jim Breech, Cincinnati	31-31	19-27	48	88
David Treadwell, Denver	28-28	20-24	46	88
Jeff Jaeger, L.A. Raiders	28-28	15-26	54	73

NFC LEADING SCORERS, KICKING

	PAT	FG	Long	Pts
Morten Andersen, New Orleans	33-34	29-34	52	120
Chip Lohmiller, Washington	30-30	30-40	53	120
Lin Elliott, Dallas	47-48	24-35	53	119
Mike Cofer, San Francisco	53-54	18-27	46	107
Fuad Reveiz, Minnesota	45-45	19-25	52	102
Chris Jacke, Green Bay	30-30	22-29	53	96
Jason Hanson, Detroit	30-30	21-26	52	93
Norm Johnson, Atlanta	39-39	18-22	54	93
Kevin Butler, Chicago	34-34	19-26	50	91
Roger Ruzek, Philadelphia	40-44	16-25	50	88

AFC LEADING RECEIVERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Haywood Jeffires, Houston	90	913	10.1	47	9
Curtis Duncan, Houston	82	954	11.6	72	1
Ronnie Harmon, San Diego	79	914	11.6	55	1
John L. Williams, Seattle	74	556	7.5	27	2
Anthony Miller, San Diego	72	1,060	14.7	67t	7
Ernest Givins, Houston	67	787	11.7	41	10
Andre Reed, Buffalo	65	913	14.0	51	3
Reggie Langhorne, Indianapolis	65	811	12.5	34	1
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo	58	626	10.8	43	3
Chris Burkett, N.Y. Jets	57	724	12.7	37t	1
Lorenzo White, Houston	57	641	11.2	69t	1

NFC LEADING RECEIVERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Sterling Sharpe, Green Bay	108	1,461	13.5	76t	13
Andre Rison, Atlanta	93	1,121	12.1	71t	11
Jerry Rice, San Francisco	84	1,201	14.3	80t	10
Michael Irvin, Dallas	78	1,396	17.9	87t	7
Mike Pritchard, Atlanta	77	827	10.7	38t	5
Brett Perriman, Detroit	69	810	11.7	40t	4
Eric Martin, New Orleans	68	1,041	15.3	52t	5
Jay Novacek, Dallas	68	630	9.3	34	6
Fred Barnett, Philadelphia	67	1,083	16.2	71t	6
Gary Clark, Washington	64	912	14.3	47	5

AFC LEADING PUNTERS

	No	Yds	Long	Avg
Greg Montgomery, Houston	53	2,487	66	46.9
Rohn Stark, Indianapolis	83	3,716	64	44.8
Rick Tuten, Seattle	108	4,760	65	44.1
Bryan Barker, Kansas City	75	3,245	65	43.3
Mark Royals, Pittsburgh	73	3,119	58	42.7
John Kidd, San Diego	68	2,899	65	42.6
Jeff Gossett, L.A. Raiders	77	3,255	56	42.3
Chris Mohr, Buffalo	60	2,531	61	42.2
Lee Johnson, Cincinnati	76	3,196	64	42.1
Brian Hansen, Cleveland	74	3,083	73	41.7

NFC LEADING PUNTERS

	No	Yds	Long	Avg
Harry Newsome, Minnesota	72	3,243	84	45.0
Tommy Barnhardt, New Orleans	67	2,947	62	44.0
Jim Arnold, Detroit	65	2,846	71	43.8
Sean Landeta, N.Y. Giants	53	2,317	71	43.7
Mike Saxon, Dallas	61	2,620	58	43.0
Chris Gardocki, Chicago	79	3,393	61	42.9
Rich Camarillo, Phoenix	54	2,317	73	42.9
Jeff Feagles, Philadelphia	82	3,459	68	42.2
Ruben Rodriguez, Den.-NYG	46	1,907	55	41.5
Scott Fulhage, Atlanta	68	2,818	56	41.4

AFC LEADING PUNT RETURNERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Rod Woodson, Pittsburgh	32	364	11.4	80t	1
Clarence Verdin, Indianapolis	24	268	11.2	84t	2
Arthur Marshall, Denver	33	349	10.6	47	0
Dale Carter, Kansas City	38	398	10.5	86t	2
Tim Brown, L.A. Raiders	37	383	10.4	40	0
Clifford Hicks, Buffalo	29	289	10.0	42	0
Terry Metcalf, Cleveland	44	429	9.8	75t	1
Walter Stanley, San Diego-N.E.	28	227	8.1	50	0
Eric Bieniemy, San Diego	30	229	7.6	21	0
Rob Carpenter, N.Y. Jets	28	208	7.4	21	0

NFC LEADING PUNT RETURNERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Johnny Bailey, Phoenix	20	263	13.2	65	0
Kelvin Martin, Dallas	42	532	12.7	79t	2
Vai Sikahema, Philadelphia	40	503	12.6	87t	1
Anthony Parker, Minnesota	33	336	10.2	42	0
Terrell Buckley, Green Bay	21	211	10.0	58t	1
Brian Mitchell, Washington	29	271	9.3	84t	1
David Meggett, N.Y. Giants	27	240	8.9	39	0
Alan Grant, San Francisco	29	249	8.6	46	0
Vernon Turner, L.A. Rams	28	207	7.4	23	0
Patrick Newman, New Orleans	23	158	6.9	18	0

AFC LEADING KICK RETURNERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Jon Vaughn, New England	20	564	28.2	100t	1
Randy Baldwin, Cleveland	30	675	22.5	47	0
Alton Montgomery, Denver	21	466	22.2	64	0
Clarence Verdin, Indianapolis	39	815	20.9	42	0
Eric Ball, Cincinnati	20	411	20.6	48	0
Harvey Williams, Kansas City	21	405	19.3	37	0
Erik McMillan, N.Y. Jets	22	419	19.0	45	0
Rod Woodson, Pittsburgh	25	469	18.8	32	0
Chris Warren, Seattle	28	524	18.7	34	0
Walter Stanley, San Diego-N.E.	29	529	18.2	40	0

NFC LEADING KICK RETURNERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Deion Sanders, Atlanta	40	1,067	26.7	99t	2
Johnny Bailey, Phoenix	28	690	24.6	63	0
Mel Gray, Detroit	42	1,006	24.0	89t	1
David Meggett, N.Y. Giants	20	455	22.8	92t	1
Darren Lewis, Chicago	23	511	22.2	97t	1
Marc Logan, San Francisco	22	478	21.7	82	0
Darrin Nelson, Minnesota	29	626	21.6	53	0
Brian Mitchell, Washington	23	492	21.4	47	0
Desmond Howard, Washington	22	462	21.0	42	0
Kelvin Martin, Dallas	24	503	21.0	59	0

AFC LEADING INTERCEPTORS

	Int	Yds	Long	TD
Henry Jones, Buffalo	8	263	82t	2
Eugene Robinson, Seattle	7	126	49	0
Dale Carter, Kansas City	7	63	36t	1
Mark Kelso, Buffalo	7	21	13	0
Darren Carrington, San Diego	6	152	69	1
Mike Brim, N.Y. Jets	6	139	77t	1
Darren Perry, Pittsburgh	6	69	34	0
Brian Washington, N.Y. Jets	6	59	23t	1
Mike Prior, Indianapolis	6	44	19	0
Jerry Gray, Houston	6	24	22	0

NFC LEADING INTERCEPTORS

	Int	Yds	Long	TD
Audray McMillian, Minnesota	8	157	51t	2
Donnell Woolford, Chicago	7	67	32	0
Brad Edwards, Washington	6	157	33t	1
Toi Cook, New Orleans	6	90	48t	1
Robert Massey, Phoenix	5	147	46t	3
Todd Scott, Minnesota	5	79	35t	1
Vencie Glenn, Minnesota	5	65	39	0
Don Griffin, San Francisco	5	4	2	0

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The Nation's Newspaper

AFC RESULTS AND STANDINGS

BUFFALO BILLS

Sept. 6	L.A. RAMS	40-7
Sept. 13	at San Francisco	34-31
Sept. 20	INDIANAPOLIS	38-0
Sept. 27	at New England	41-7
Oct. 4	MIAMI	10-37
Oct. 11	at L.A. Raiders	3-20
Oct. 18	Open Date	
Oct. 26	at N.Y. Jets (Mon.)	24-20
Nov. 1	NEW ENGLAND	16-7
Nov. 8	PITTSBURGH	28-20
Nov. 16	at Miami (Mon.)	26-20
Nov. 22	ATLANTA	41-14
Nov. 29	at Indianapolis*	13-16
Dec. 6	N.Y. JETS	17-24
Dec. 12	DENVER (Sat.)	27-17
Dec. 20	at New Orleans	20-16
Dec. 27	at Houston	3-27
W11 L5		381-283

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Sept. 6	at Seattle	21-3
Sept. 13	L.A. RAIDERS*	24-21
Sept. 20	at Green Bay	23-24
Sept. 27	MINNESOTA	7-42
Oct. 4	Open Date	
Oct. 11	HOUSTON	24-38
Oct. 19	at Pittsburgh (Mon.)	0-20
Oct. 25	at Houston	10-26
Nov. 1	CLEVELAND	30-10
Nov. 8	at Chicago*	31-28
Nov. 15	at N.Y. Jets	14-17
Nov. 22	DETROIT	13-19
Nov. 29	PITTSBURGH	9-21
Dec. 6	at Cleveland	21-37
Dec. 13	at San Diego	10-27
Dec. 20	NEW ENGLAND	20-10
Dec. 27	INDIANAPOLIS	17-21
W5 L11		274-364

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Sept. 6	at Indianapolis	3-14
Sept. 14	MIAMI (Mon.)	23-27
Sept. 20	at L.A. Raiders	28-16
Sept. 27	DENVER	0-12
Oct. 4	Open Date	
Oct. 11	PITTSBURGH	17-9
Oct. 18	GREEN BAY	17-6
Oct. 25	at New England	19-17
Nov. 1	at Cincinnati	10-30
Nov. 8	at Houston	24-14
Nov. 15	SAN DIEGO	13-14
Nov. 22	at Minnesota	13-17
Nov. 29	CHICAGO	27-14
Dec. 6	CINCINNATI	37-21
Dec. 13	at Detroit	14-24
Dec. 20	HOUSTON	14-17
Dec. 27	at Pittsburgh	13-23
W7 L9		272-275

DENVER BRONCOS

Sept. 6	L.A. RAIDERS	17-13
Sept. 13	SAN DIEGO	21-13
Sept. 20	at Philadelphia	0-30
Sept. 27	at Cleveland	12-0
Oct. 4	KANSAS CITY	20-19
Oct. 12	at Washington (Mon.)	3-34
Oct. 18	HOUSTON	27-21
Oct. 25	at San Diego	21-24
Nov. 1	Open Date	
Nov. 8	N.Y. JETS	27-16
Nov. 15	N.Y. GIANTS	27-13
Nov. 22	at L.A. Raiders	0-24
Nov. 30	at Seattle (Mon.)*	13-16
Dec. 6	DALLAS	27-31
Dec. 12	at Buffalo (Sat.)	17-27
Dec. 20	SEATTLE	10-6
Dec. 27	at Kansas City	20-42
W8 L8		262-329

HOUSTON OILERS

Sept. 6	PITTSBURGH	24-29
Sept. 13	at Indianapolis	20-10
Sept. 20	KANSAS CITY*	23-20
Sept. 27	SAN DIEGO	27-0
Oct. 4	Open Date	
Oct. 11	at Cincinnati	38-24
Oct. 18	at Denver	21-27
Oct. 25	CINCINNATI	26-10
Nov. 1	at Pittsburgh	20-21
Nov. 8	CLEVELAND	14-24
Nov. 15	at Minnesota	17-13
Nov. 22	at Miami	16-19
Nov. 26	at Detroit (Thanks.)	24-21
Dec. 7	CHICAGO (Mon.)	24-7
Dec. 13	GREEN BAY	14-16
Dec. 20	at Cleveland	17-14
Dec. 27	BUFFALO	27-3
W10 L6		352-258

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Sept. 6	CLEVELAND	14-3
Sept. 13	HOUSTON	10-20
Sept. 20	at Buffalo	0-38
Sept. 27	Open Date	
Oct. 4	at Tampa Bay	24-14
Oct. 11	N.Y. JETS*	6-3
Oct. 18	SAN DIEGO	14-34
Oct. 25	at Miami	31-20
Nov. 1	at San Diego	0-26
Nov. 8	MIAMI	0-28
Nov. 15	NEW ENGLAND*	34-37
Nov. 22	at Pittsburgh	14-30
Nov. 29	BUFFALO*	16-13
Dec. 6	at New England	6-0
Dec. 13	at N.Y. Jets	10-6
Dec. 20	PHOENIX	16-13
Dec. 27	at Cincinnati	21-17
W9 L7		216-302

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Sept. 6	at San Diego	24-10
Sept. 13	SEATTLE	26-7
Sept. 20	at Houston*	20-23
Sept. 28	L.A. RAIDERS (Mon.)	27-7
Oct. 4	at Denver	19-20
Oct. 11	PHILADELPHIA	24-17
Oct. 18	at Dallas	10-17
Oct. 25	PITTSBURGH	3-27
Nov. 1	Open Date	
Nov. 8	SAN DIEGO	16-14
Nov. 15	WASHINGTON	35-16
Nov. 22	at Seattle	24-14
Nov. 29	at N.Y. Jets	23-7
Dec. 6	at L.A. Raiders	7-28
Dec. 13	NEW ENGLAND	27-20
Dec. 19	at N.Y. Giants (Sat.)	21-35
Dec. 27	DENVER	42-20
W10 L6		348-282

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

Sept. 6	at Denver	13-17
Sept. 13	at Cincinnati*	21-24
Sept. 20	CLEVELAND	16-28
Sept. 28	at Kansas City (Mon.)	7-27
Oct. 4	N.Y. GIANTS	13-10
Oct. 11	BUFFALO	20-3
Oct. 18	at Seattle	19-0
Oct. 25	DALLAS	13-28
Nov. 1	Open Date	
Nov. 8	at Philadelphia	10-31
Nov. 15	SEATTLE	20-3
Nov. 22	DENVER	24-0
Nov. 29	at San Diego	3-27
Dec. 6	KANSAS CITY	28-7
Dec. 14	at Miami (Mon.)	7-20
Dec. 20	SAN DIEGO	14-36
Dec. 26	at Washington (Sat.)	21-20
W7 L9		249-281

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Sept. 6	Open Date	
Sept. 14	at Cleveland (Mon.)	27-23
Sept. 20	L.A. RAMS	26-10
Sept. 27	at Seattle	19-17
Oct. 4	at Buffalo	37-10
Oct. 11	ATLANTA	21-17
Oct. 18	NEW ENGLAND	38-17
Oct. 25	INDIANAPOLIS	20-31
Nov. 1	at N.Y. Jets	14-26
Nov. 8	at Indianapolis	28-0
Nov. 16	BUFFALO (Mon.)	20-26
Nov. 22	HOUSTON	19-16
Nov. 29	at New Orleans	13-24
Dec. 6	at San Francisco	3-27
Dec. 14	L.A. RAIDERS (Mon.)	20-7
Dec. 20	N.Y. JETS	19-17
Dec. 27	at New England*	16-13
W11 L5		340-281

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Sept. 6	Open Date	
Sept. 13	at L.A. Rams	0-14
Sept. 20	SEATTLE	6-10
Sept. 27	BUFFALO	7-41
Oct. 4	at N.Y. Jets	21-30
Oct. 11	SAN FRANCISCO	12-24
Oct. 18	at Miami	17-38
Oct. 25	CLEVELAND	17-19
Nov. 1	at Buffalo	7-16
Nov. 8	NEW ORLEANS	14-31
Nov. 15	at Indianapolis*	37-34
Nov. 22	N.Y. JETS	24-3
Nov. 29	at Atlanta	0-34
Dec. 6	INDIANAPOLIS	0-6
Dec. 13	at Kansas City	20-27
Dec. 20	at Cincinnati	10-20
Dec. 27	MIAMI*	13-16
W2 L14		205-363

NEW YORK JETS

Sept. 6	at Atlanta	17-20
Sept. 13	at Pittsburgh	10-27
Sept. 20	SAN FRANCISCO	14-31
Sept. 27	at L.A. Rams	10-18
Oct. 4	NEW ENGLAND	30-21
Oct. 11	at Indianapolis*	3-6
Oct. 18	Open Date	
Oct. 26	BUFFALO (Mon.)	20-24
Nov. 1	MIAMI	26-14
Nov. 8	at Denver	16-27
Nov. 15	CINCINNATI	17-14
Nov. 22	at New England	3-24
Nov. 29	KANSAS CITY	7-23
Dec. 6	at Buffalo	24-17
Dec. 13	INDIANAPOLIS	6-10
Dec. 20	at Miami	17-19
Dec. 26	NEW ORLEANS (Sat.)	0-20
W4 L12		220-315

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Sept. 6	at Houston	29-24
Sept. 13	N.Y. JETS	27-10
Sept. 20	at San Diego	23-6
Sept. 27	at Green Bay	3-17
Oct. 4	Open Date	
Oct. 11	at Cleveland	9-17
Oct. 19	CINCINNATI (Mon.)	20-0
Oct. 25	at Kansas City	27-3
Nov. 1	HOUSTON	21-20
Nov. 8	at Buffalo	20-28
Nov. 15	DETROIT	17-14
Nov. 22	INDIANAPOLIS	30-14
Nov. 29	at Cincinnati	21-9
Dec. 6	SEATTLE	20-14
Dec. 13	at Chicago	6-30
Dec. 20	MINNESOTA	3-6
Dec. 27	CLEVELAND	23-13
W11 L5		299-225

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Sept. 6	KANSAS CITY	10-24
Sept. 13	at Denver	13-21
Sept. 20	PITTSBURGH	6-23
Sept. 27	at Houston	0-27
Oct. 4	SEATTLE	17-6
Oct. 11	Open Date	
Oct. 18	at Indianapolis	34-14
Oct. 25	DENVER	24-21
Nov. 1	INDIANAPOLIS	26-0
Nov. 8	at Kansas City	14-16
Nov. 15	at Cleveland	14-13
Nov. 22	TAMPA BAY	29-14
Nov. 29	L.A. RAIDERS	27-3
Dec. 6	at Phoenix	27-21
Dec. 13	CINCINNATI	27-10
Dec. 20	at L.A. Raiders	36-14
Dec. 27	at Seattle	31-14
W11 L5		335-241

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

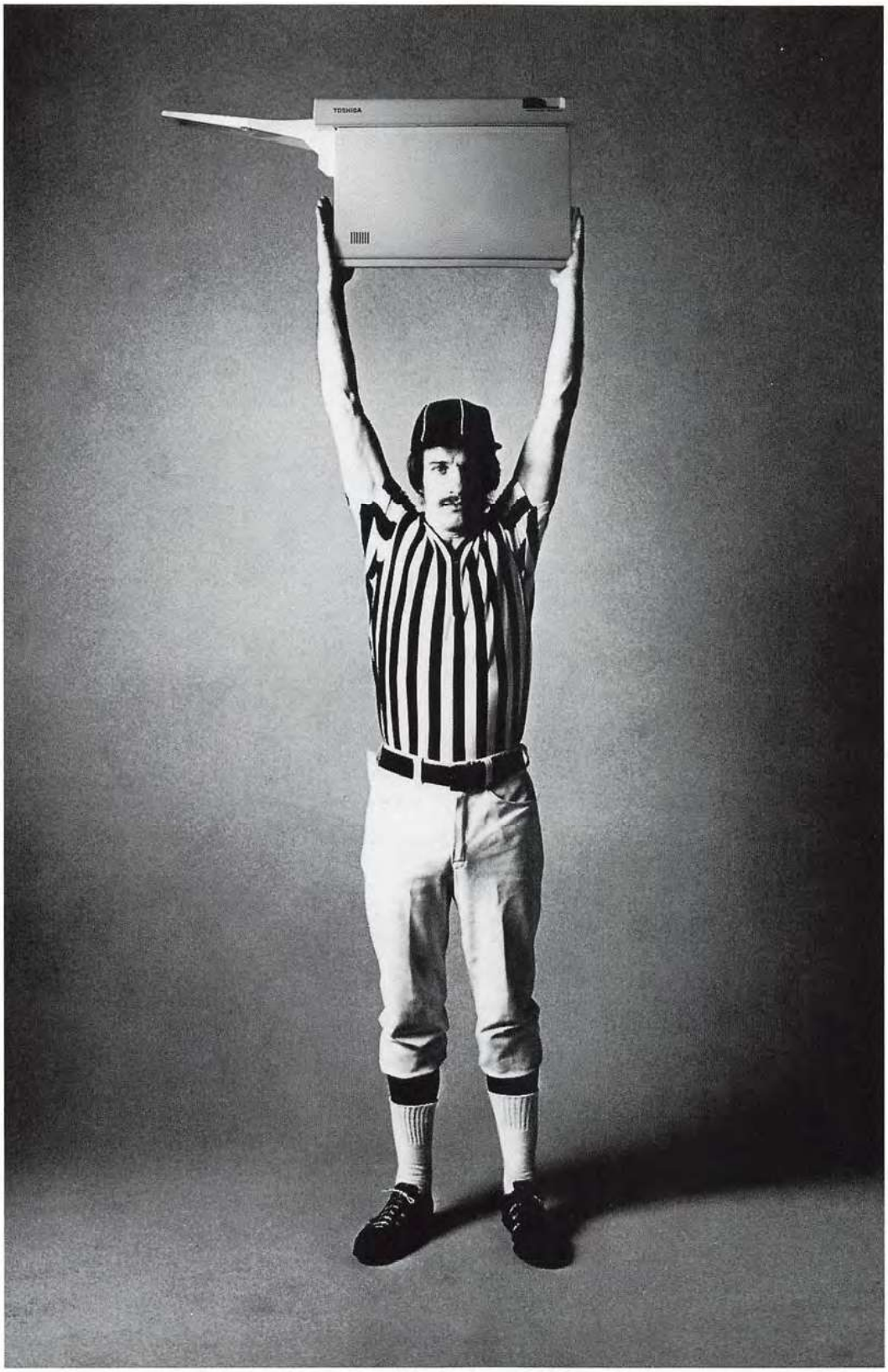
Sept. 6	CINCINNATI	3-21
Sept. 13	at Kansas City	7-26
Sept. 20	at New England	10-6
Sept. 27	MIAMI	17-19
Oct. 4	at San Diego	6-17
Oct. 11	at Dallas	0-27
Oct. 18	L.A. RAIDERS	0-19
Oct. 25	at N.Y. Giants	10-23
Nov. 1	Open Date	
Nov. 8	WASHINGTON	3-16
Nov. 15	at L.A. Raiders	3-20
Nov. 22	KANSAS CITY	14-24
Nov. 30	DENVER (Mon.)*	16-13
Dec. 6	at Pittsburgh	14-20
Dec. 13	PHILADELPHIA*	17-20
Dec. 20	at Denver	6-10
Dec. 27	SAN DIEGO	14-31
W2 L14		140-312

1992 AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Eastern Division	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Miami	11	5	0	.688	340	281
Buffalo	11	5	0	.688	381	283
Indianapolis	9	7	0	.563	216	302
N.Y. Jets	4	12	0	.250	220	315
New England	2	14	0	.125	205	363
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Pittsburgh	11	5	0	.688	299	225
Houston	10	6	0	.625	352	258
Cleveland	7	9	0	.438	272	275
Cincinnati	5	11	0	.313	274	364
Western Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
San Diego	11	5	0	.688	335	241
Kansas City	10	6	0	.625	348	282
Denver	8	8	0	.500	262	329
L.A. Raiders	7	9	0	.438	249	281
Seattle	2	14	0	.125	140	312

Miami finished ahead of Buffalo based on better conference record (9-3 to 7-5).

*Overtime



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In Touch with Tomorrow
TOSHIBA

NFC RESULTS AND STANDINGS

ATLANTA FALCONS

Sept. 6	N.Y. JETS	20-17
Sept. 13	at Washington	17-24
Sept. 20	NEW ORLEANS	7-10
Sept. 27	at Chicago	31-41
Oct. 4	GREEN BAY	24-10
Oct. 11	at Miami	17-21
Oct. 18	at San Francisco	17-56
Oct. 25	Open Date	
Nov. 1	L.A. RAMS	30-28
Nov. 9	SAN FRANCISCO (Mon.)	3-41
Nov. 15	PHOENIX	20-17
Nov. 22	at Buffalo	14-41
Nov. 29	NEW ENGLAND	34-0
Dec. 3	at New Orleans (Thurs.)	14-22
Dec. 13	at Tampa Bay	35-7
Dec. 21	DALLAS (Mon.)	17-41
Dec. 27	at L.A. Rams	27-38
W6 L10		327-414

CHICAGO BEARS

Sept. 6	DETROIT	27-24
Sept. 13	at New Orleans	6-28
Sept. 21	N.Y. GIANTS (Mon.)	14-27
Sept. 27	ATLANTA	41-31
Oct. 4	at Minnesota	20-21
Oct. 11	Open Date	
Oct. 18	TAMPA BAY	31-14
Oct. 25	at Green Bay	30-10
Nov. 2	MINNESOTA (Mon.)	10-38
Nov. 8	CINCINNATI*	28-31
Nov. 15	at Tampa Bay	17-20
Nov. 22	GREEN BAY	3-17
Nov. 29	at Cleveland	14-27
Dec. 7	at Houston (Mon.)	7-24
Dec. 13	PITTSBURGH	30-6
Dec. 20	at Detroit	3-16
Dec. 27	at Dallas	14-27
W5 L11		295-361

DALLAS COWBOYS

Sept. 7	WASHINGTON (Mon.)	23-10
Sept. 13	at N.Y. Giants	34-28
Sept. 20	PHOENIX	31-20
Sept. 27	Open Date	
Oct. 5	at Philadelphia (Mon.)	7-31
Oct. 11	SEATTLE	27-0
Oct. 18	KANSAS CITY	17-10
Oct. 25	at L.A. Raiders	28-13
Nov. 1	PHILADELPHIA	20-10
Nov. 8	at Detroit	37-3
Nov. 15	L.A. RAMS	23-27
Nov. 22	at Phoenix	16-10
Nov. 26	N.Y. GIANTS (Thanks.)	30-3
Dec. 6	at Denver	31-27
Dec. 13	at Washington	17-20
Dec. 21	at Atlanta (Mon.)	41-17
Dec. 27	CHICAGO	27-14
W13 L3		409-243

DETROIT LIONS

Sept. 6	at Chicago	24-27
Sept. 13	MINNESOTA	31-17
Sept. 20	at Washington	10-13
Sept. 27	TAMPA BAY	23-27
Oct. 4	NEW ORLEANS	7-13
Oct. 11	Open Date	
Oct. 15	at Minnesota (Thurs.)	14-31
Oct. 25	at Tampa Bay	38-7
Nov. 1	GREEN BAY	13-27
Nov. 8	DALLAS	3-37
Nov. 15	at Pittsburgh	14-17
Nov. 22	at Cincinnati	19-13
Nov. 26	HOUSTON (Thanks.)	21-24
Dec. 6	vs. Green Bay at Mil.	10-38
Dec. 13	CLEVELAND	24-14
Dec. 20	CHICAGO	16-3
Dec. 28	at San Francisco (Mon.)	6-24
W5 L11		273-332

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Sept. 6	MINNESOTA*	20-23
Sept. 13	at Tampa Bay	3-31
Sept. 20	CINCINNATI	24-23
Sept. 27	PITTSBURGH	17-3
Oct. 4	at Atlanta	10-24
Oct. 11	Open Date	
Oct. 18	at Cleveland	6-17
Oct. 25	CHICAGO	10-30
Nov. 1	at Detroit	27-13
Nov. 8	at N.Y. Giants	7-27
Nov. 15	PHILADELPHIA at Mil.	27-24
Nov. 22	at Chicago	17-3
Nov. 29	TAMPA BAY at Mil.	19-14
Dec. 6	DETROIT at Mil.	38-10
Dec. 13	at Houston	16-14
Dec. 20	L.A. RAMS	28-13
Dec. 27	at Minnesota	7-27
W9 L7		276-296

LOS ANGELES RAMS

Sept. 6	at Buffalo	7-40
Sept. 13	NEW ENGLAND	14-0
Sept. 20	at Miami	10-26
Sept. 27	N.Y. JETS	18-10
Oct. 4	at San Francisco	24-27
Oct. 11	at New Orleans	10-13
Oct. 18	N.Y. GIANTS	38-17
Oct. 25	Open Date	
Nov. 1	at Atlanta	28-30
Nov. 8	PHOENIX	14-20
Nov. 15	at Dallas	27-23
Nov. 22	SAN FRANCISCO	10-27
Nov. 29	MINNESOTA	17-31
Dec. 6	at Tampa Bay	31-27
Dec. 13	NEW ORLEANS	14-37
Dec. 20	at Green Bay	13-28
Dec. 27	ATLANTA	38-27
W6 L10		313-383

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Sept. 6	at Green Bay*	23-20
Sept. 13	at Detroit	17-31
Sept. 20	TAMPA BAY	26-20
Sept. 27	at Cincinnati	42-7
Oct. 4	CHICAGO	21-20
Oct. 11	Open Date	
Oct. 15	DETROIT (Thurs.)	31-14
Oct. 25	WASHINGTON	13-15
Nov. 2	at Chicago (Mon.)	38-10
Nov. 8	at Tampa Bay	35-7
Nov. 15	HOUSTON	13-17
Nov. 22	CLEVELAND	17-13
Nov. 29	at L.A. Rams	31-17
Dec. 6	at Philadelphia	17-28
Dec. 13	SAN FRANCISCO	17-20
Dec. 20	at Pittsburgh	6-3
Dec. 27	GREEN BAY	27-7
W11 L5		374-249

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Sept. 6	at Philadelphia	13-15
Sept. 13	CHICAGO	28-6
Sept. 20	at Atlanta	10-7
Sept. 27	SAN FRANCISCO	10-16
Oct. 4	at Detroit	13-7
Oct. 11	L.A. RAMS	13-10
Oct. 18	at Phoenix	30-21
Oct. 25	Open Date	
Nov. 1	TAMPA BAY	23-21
Nov. 8	at New England	31-14
Nov. 15	at San Francisco	20-21
Nov. 23	WASHINGTON (Mon.)	20-3
Nov. 29	MIAMI	24-13
Dec. 3	ATLANTA (Thurs.)	22-14
Dec. 13	at L.A. Rams	37-14
Dec. 20	BUFFALO	16-20
Dec. 26	at N.Y. Jets (Sat.)	20-0
W12 L4		330-202

NEW YORK GIANTS

Sept. 6	SAN FRANCISCO	14-31
Sept. 13	DALLAS	28-34
Sept. 21	at Chicago (Mon.)	27-14
Sept. 27	Open Date	
Oct. 4	at L.A. Raiders	10-13
Oct. 11	PHOENIX	31-21
Oct. 18	at L.A. Rams	17-38
Oct. 25	SEATTLE	23-10
Nov. 1	at Washington	24-7
Nov. 8	GREEN BAY	27-7
Nov. 15	at Denver	13-27
Nov. 22	PHILADELPHIA	34-47
Nov. 26	at Dallas (Thanks.)	3-30
Dec. 6	WASHINGTON	10-28
Dec. 12	at Phoenix (Sat.)	0-19
Dec. 19	KANSAS CITY (Sat.)	35-21
Dec. 27	at Philadelphia	10-20
W6 L10		306-367

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Sept. 6	NEW ORLEANS	15-13
Sept. 13	at Phoenix	31-14
Sept. 20	DENVER	30-0
Sept. 27	Open Date	
Oct. 5	DALLAS (Mon.)	31-7
Oct. 11	at Kansas City	17-24
Oct. 18	at Washington	12-16
Oct. 25	PHOENIX	7-3
Nov. 1	at Dallas	10-20
Nov. 8	L.A. RAIDERS	31-10
Nov. 15	vs. Green Bay at Mil.	24-27
Nov. 22	at N.Y. Giants	47-34
Nov. 29	at San Francisco	14-20
Dec. 6	MINNESOTA	28-17
Dec. 13	at Seattle*	20-17
Dec. 20	WASHINGTON	17-13
Dec. 27	N.Y. GIANTS	20-10
W11 L5		354-245

PHOENIX CARDINALS

Sept. 6	at Tampa Bay	7-23
Sept. 13	PHILADELPHIA	14-31
Sept. 20	at Dallas	20-31
Sept. 27	Open Date	
Oct. 4	WASHINGTON	27-24
Oct. 11	at N.Y. Giants	21-31
Oct. 18	NEW ORLEANS	21-30
Oct. 25	at Philadelphia	3-7
Nov. 1	SAN FRANCISCO	24-14
Nov. 8	at L.A. Rams	20-14
Nov. 15	at Atlanta	17-20
Nov. 22	DALLAS	10-16
Nov. 29	at Washington	3-41
Dec. 6	SAN DIEGO	21-27
Dec. 12	N.Y. GIANTS (Sat.)	19-0
Dec. 20	at Indianapolis	13-16
Dec. 27	TAMPA BAY	3-7
W4 L12		243-332

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Sept. 6	at N.Y. Giants	31-14
Sept. 13	BUFFALO	31-34
Sept. 20	at N.Y. Jets	31-14
Sept. 27	at New Orleans	16-10
Oct. 4	L.A. RAMS	27-24
Oct. 11	at New England	24-12
Oct. 18	ATLANTA	56-17
Oct. 25	Open Date	
Nov. 1	at Phoenix	14-24
Nov. 9	at Atlanta (Mon.)	41-3
Nov. 15	NEW ORLEANS	21-20
Nov. 22	at L.A. Rams	27-10
Nov. 29	PHILADELPHIA	20-14
Dec. 6	MIAMI	27-3
Dec. 13	at Minnesota	20-17
Dec. 19	TAMPA BAY (Sat.)	21-14
Dec. 28	DETROIT (Mon.)	24-6
W14 L2		431-236

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Sept. 6	PHOENIX	23-7
Sept. 13	GREEN BAY	31-3
Sept. 20	at Minnesota	20-26
Sept. 27	at Detroit	27-23
Oct. 4	INDIANAPOLIS	14-24
Oct. 11	Open Date	
Oct. 18	at Chicago	14-31
Oct. 25	DETROIT	7-38
Nov. 1	at New Orleans	21-23
Nov. 8	MINNESOTA	7-35
Nov. 15	CHICAGO	20-17
Nov. 22	at San Diego	14-29
Nov. 29	vs. Green Bay at Mil.	14-19
Dec. 6	L.A. RAMS	27-31
Dec. 13	ATLANTA	7-35
Dec. 19	at San Francisco (Sat.)	14-21
Dec. 27	at Phoenix	7-3
W5 L11		267-365

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Sept. 6	at Dallas (Mon.)	10-23
Sept. 13	ATLANTA	24-17
Sept. 20	DETROIT	13-10
Sept. 27	Open Date	
Oct. 4	at Phoenix	24-27
Oct. 12	DENVER (Mon.)	34-3
Oct. 18	PHILADELPHIA	16-12
Oct. 25	at Minnesota	13-13
Nov. 1	N.Y. GIANTS	7-24
Nov. 8	at Seattle	16-3
Nov. 15	at Kansas City	16-35
Nov. 23	at New Orleans (Mon.)	3-20
Nov. 29	PHOENIX	41-3
Dec. 6	at N.Y. Giants	28-10
Dec. 13	DALLAS	20-17
Dec. 20	at Philadelphia	13-17
Dec. 26	L.A. RAIDERS (Sat.)	20-21
W9 L7		300-255

1992 NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Eastern Division	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Dallas	13	3	0	.813	409	243
Philadelphia	11	5	0	.688	354	245
Washington	9	7	0	.563	300	255
N.Y. Giants	6	10	0	.375	306	367
Phoenix	4	12	0	.250	243	332
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Minnesota	11	5	0	.688	374	249
Green Bay	9	7	0	.563	276	296
Tampa Bay	5	11	0	.313	267	365
Chicago	5	11	0	.313	295	361
Detroit	5	11	0	.313	273	332
Western Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
San Francisco	14	2	0	.875	431	236
New Orleans	12	4	0	.750	330	202
Atlanta	6	10	0	.375	327	414
L.A. Rams	6	10	0	.375	313	383

Tampa Bay finished ahead of Chicago and Detroit based on better conference record (5-7 to Bears' 4-8 and Lions' 3-9). Atlanta finished ahead of Los Angeles Rams based on better record versus common opponents (5-7 to 4-8).

*Overtime

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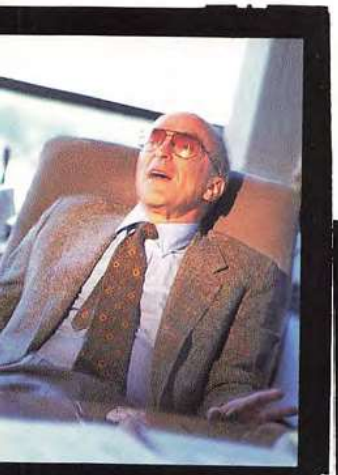

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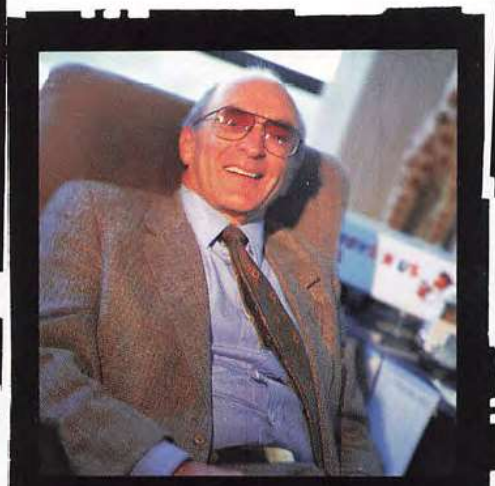

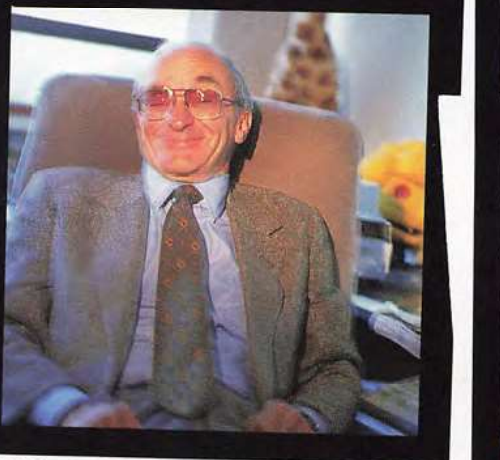

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GETTING EVEN CLOSER IN 1993

THE PRO LINE COLLECTION

Sample Card (left) from a New 1993 9-Card Profile of 49ers QB Steve Young

Card 1

Card 2

Card 3

Card 4

Card 5

Card 6

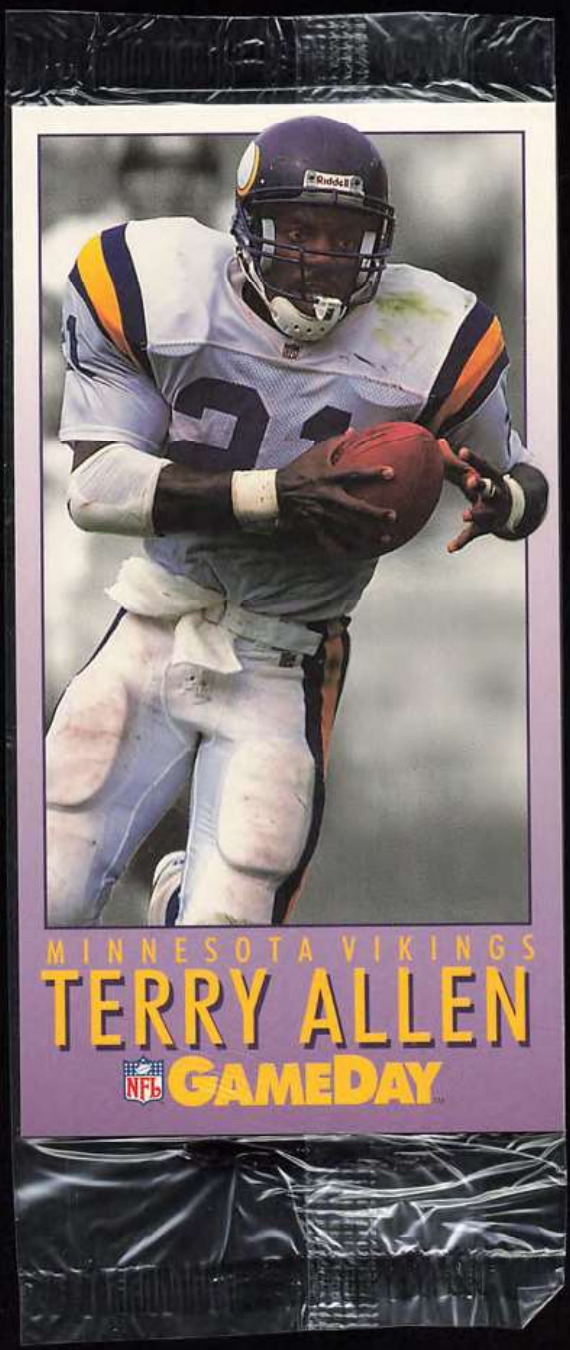
Card 7

Card 8

Card 9

Note: Samples of each of the 9 Steve Young Profiles appear in random copies of the Super Bowl XXVII game program.

THE 1993 INTRODUCTION



NFL GAMEDAY

The Super Bowl Sample Set

Troy Aikman, QB, Cowboys

Terry Allen, RB, Vikings

Ray Childress, DT, Oilers

Marco Coleman, LB, Dolphins

Barry Foster, RB, Steelers

Sterling Sharpe, WR, Packers

Children have become so sophisticated. Today's five-year-olds always want the next big thing—and it always has to be more and more complicated. They come along and they say, "I gotta have." "If I don't get, I will die." They are our salespeople and their grandparents are our best customers.

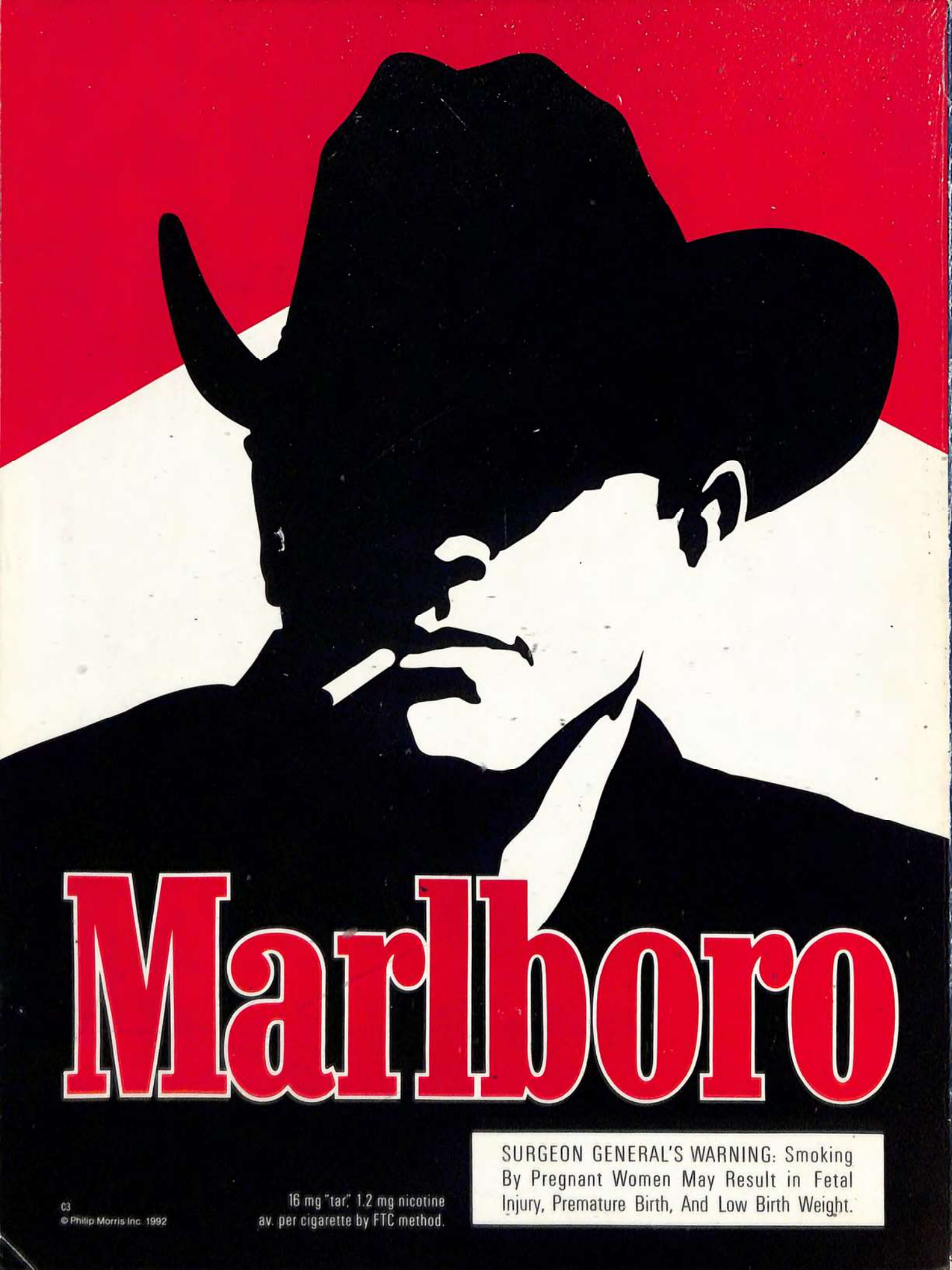
> "Five-year-olds make ruthless customers."

They can refuse their child anything—they can refuse a grandchild nothing.

We now sell virtually the same toys all over the world. So it stands to reason, if all these kids are playing with the same toys, how could they ever possibly fight with each other? There's a common thread about how they grow up and what they play with. I think that's terrific. It makes for one world.

I love to visit our stores and listen to our customers—just to find out what they want. I was on a trip last week and I probably spent $50 out of my pocket. That's because everything works with the American Express® Card. Hotels, restaurants, car rentals—they all accept the Card. So I don't have to walk around with much money in my pocket. And it's a great record of my trip.

Charles Lazarus
C.E.O. & Founder, Toys "R" Us



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16 mg "tar", 1.2 mg nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method.

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